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POLL RESULTS

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Sunday March 16, 2008

INSIDE

NY Accident

A crane rising 19 stories alongside a skyscraper under construction toppled like a tree in New York, killing four people.

NATION...Page 14

My Lai Anniversary

On the 40th anniversary of the massacre of up to 500 unarmed Vietnamese villagers, a former helicopter gunner was reunited with a young man he rescued from ram-paging U.S. soldiers.

ASIA...Page 15



Triathlons

Triathlons are the new marathons.

HEALTH & FITNESS...Page 17

Indian delegation eyes joining LibDay parade. **PAGE 2**

Manhunt on in burglary at house of cop's mom. **PAGE 3**

New immigration bill is carbon copy of S.2483

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The complete text of S.2739 or the "Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008" became available over the weekend and, true to the word of a congressional staff source, the new omnibus bill's provision on CNMI immigration mirrors the seemingly aborted S.2483.

The new omnibus bill, introduced March 10 by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), was immediately placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under "read the first time."

Like S.2483, or the National Forests, Parks, Public Land, and Reclamation Project Authorization Act of 2007, the new omnibus bill is a collection of approximately 50 individual bills

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Commonwealth.

But if the lower chamber's Ways and Means Committee chair, Ray Yumul, had his way, converting over-the-salary-cap staff—especially at the Legislative Bureau—into civil service employees is a more palatable option rather than the passage of H.B. 16-30.

See **CONVERT** on Page 4

Over 300 watch Pacquiao-Marquez fight

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Hundreds of boxing fans, mostly Filipinos and locals, watched yesterday the live broadcast of the Las Vegas fight between Filipino national icon Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao and Mexico's Juan Manuel Marquez at the Saipan World Resort.

Boxing enthusiasts at the World Resort's VIP seats at Redbox Sportsbar and the

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HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

A painted tree stump on the road leading up to Capital Hill is now seen wearing a leprechaun hat for the St. Patrick's Day celebration today. Saint Patrick's Day is an annual feast day, which celebrates Saint Patrick (circa 385-461 AD), one of the patron saints of Ireland, and is generally celebrated on March 17. Both Christians and non-Christians celebrate the secular version of the holiday by wearing green or orange, eating Irish food and or green foods, imbibing Irish drink (such as Guinness) and attending parades.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

'Convert LB staff to civil service employees'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The issue of certain government employees being allowed to exceed the salary cap was again front and center last Wednesday when the House of Representatives passed a bill providing latitude in the compensation for licensed professionals employed by the



Yumul



CNMI'S MATHCOUNTS STATE REPS

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Dong Hee Im and Sung Hoon Ha, both from Marianas Baptist Academy, and Saipan International School's Harry Jun and Mount Carmel School's Feng Lizama hold their trophy after the 14th Annual CNMI Mathcount state competition at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Saturday. They will represent the CNMI in this year's Mathcounts National Competition in Colorado on May 9, 2008.

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Local

Indian delegation eyes joining LibDay parade

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Saipan businessman Antony Glad said that a city in India has expressed interest in taking an active part in this year's month-long Liberation Day activities.

Ahmedabad City Mayor Amit Shah shared with Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela his desire to visit Saipan later this year with a large group to participate in this year's Liberation Day activities that would begin in June 2008.

Tudela paid a courtesy visit to the Ahmedabad City's

only school for the deaf during a recent trip to India for the signing of a second sister-cities agreement.

Tudela said he is expecting students with disabilities from Ahmedabad to join this year's Liberation Day celebration.

Glad, who helped pave the way for the signing of two recent historic sister-cities agreement with India, said that he is keeping in close contact with utilities' experts from India to help resolve some of Saipan's power crises.

"They are very interested in learning more about this place

and how the island handles power operations," said Glad.

While in India, Tudela also paid a visit to Ahmedabad City's Sabarmati power station that provides electrical power to the city's 5.5 million residents.

Tudela talked about Saipan's continuing power problems and discussed the possibility of extending technical assistance to the CNMI.

The station's officials are now studying Saipan's power needs and plan to submit in the near future a proposal to finance and construct a new

power plant on Saipan and sell electrical power to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

During the historic trip, which was funded by the Indian business community, Tudela visited the local city, county governments, parliament, and met local officials.

He also met with a wide range of officials and toured facilities and discussed possible technical assistance and training as well as investment and business opportunities on Saipan.

Glad said his main goal is to help bring the CNMI back to its feet by connecting the islands

with powerful investors.

Glad said that India's economy is booming like China and "we want to bring them in."

"I have been on Saipan for almost 22 years and I just want to help the CNMI's economy thrive," said Glad.

Shimabukuro concert to raise funds for 2 charitable groups

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

International ukulele artist Jake Shimabukuro will once again grace the stage with a grand ukulele concert performance at the Saipan World Resort on March 27, 2008.

The concert will be a charity concert to help raise funds for the Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands and Beautify CNMI—both non-profit organizations.

Shimabukuro, a master at the ukulele, is known for his lightning fast fingers and revolutionary playing techniques that defy musical boundaries. Shimabukuro's repertoire includes jazz, blues, funk, classical, bluegrass, folk, flamenco and rock.

Shimabukuro is recognized in Hawaii as an outstanding musician and role model. He has been named Hawaii's goodwill ambassador to Japan, and received the "Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation" for being an active voice in U.S.-Japan relations at the grassroots level.

According to HANMI chairwoman Lynn A. Knight, "Jake's last concert on Saipan was a sold out event and we are thrilled to bring him back on island for a second time."

Beautify CNMI is currently looking for 10 volunteers to work at the event. Four volunteers are needed to sell tickets,

four to gather tickets and two to sell merchandise.

Interested individuals are encouraged to contact the Beautify CNMI volunteer line at 285-6462.

Tickets are now for sale at \$25 for adults and \$15 for children less than 12 years in age. A limited number of VIP tickets are available for \$50.

Tickets are available for purchase at Century Hotel and Marianas Eye Institute. For additional ticket information or to purchase VIP tickets, call the PTI-sponsored Beautify CNMI volunteer line at 285-6462.

HANMI was established in August 29, 1985, after a group of hotel operators came together and saw the need to form an organization representing the hospitality industry in the CNMI.

Beautify CNMI is a coalition of various government agencies, businesses, non-profit organizations, private citizens and visitors. Its mission is to foster community pride through a beautification campaign aimed at enhancing the beauty of the island environments and quality of life through public education on recycling, restoration, waste management, and enforcement of laws.

This concert is sponsored by Marianas Eye Institute, Saipan Tribune, Tan Holdings, Aqua Resort Club, Northern Mariana Insurance Association, Ken Real Estate Lease Ltd.

Bennett to Fitial: Put politics aside

Former teacher representative Ambrose Bennett is asking Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to put politics aside and give his suggestions the "proper weight and volume it deserves in the best interest of the people of the CNMI."

Bennett is requesting the governor to push for legislation that would create a "cultural curriculum" for two of the island's indigenous cultures "to assure that all history, traditions, customs, arts & crafts are preserved and capable of being taught to future generations."

Bennett said there are millions in federal funding for a cultural curriculum that would make it easy for the CNMI to implement. "We just need to do our homework."

"There is genuine need for a cultural curriculum but the politics over money and power in the CNMI has always seemed to prevail over the social politics and the social needs," said Bennett.

He hopes the governor would consider the suggestion in an ef-

fort "to curb spending and improve our government that could actually hail you as the savior of the indigenous cultures."

In a letter to the governor, Bennett also hopes that the "outsider syndrome" will not affect the decision since the suggestion given is "culturally related."

"It shouldn't matter about the messenger, it's the message that really counts," Bennett said.

Bennett said that "contrary to the sentiments expressed by your press secretary, I am not against your administration and I do respect your decision to wait on the court even though I disagree."

Bennett is asking the high court to decide on the teacher representative issue because the governor had declined to take on the role of selecting the new teacher representative to the Board of Education.

The governor believes that the new teacher rep should be selected by teachers and the Public School System. (Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)

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Manhunt on in burglary at house of cop's mom

Former PIC sales clerk in theft case gets probation

A former sales clerk at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio who is accused of stealing over \$2,000 from the hotel's cash fund entered a guilty plea and was given a probation sentence.

Melanie Ignacio Santiago pleaded guilty to two counts of theft by failure to make required disposition of funds received.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman said that pursuant to a plea agreement, Santiago is sentenced to five years in prison, all suspended.

Wiseman said the defendant will be placed on a five-year supervised probation and required to pay restitution to PIC in an amount to be determined at the hearing on May 15, 2008.

The judge ordered Santiago to pay a \$500 fine, \$25 in court assessment fee, and a probation fee.

During the probationary period, the defendant is prohibited from contacting PIC.

Santiago was also required to write a letter of apology to the hotel or its chief executive officer.

Wiseman said that, after considering the facts of this

case, the recommendation of the prosecution and the defense counsel, he "reluctantly accepts the terms and conditions of the plea agreement" entered into by the parties.

Police arrested Santiago in June 2007. A detective stated in his report that on June 4, 2007, a security manager for PIC called police and reported a theft incident.

The detective said a police officer who was dispatched to PIC learned that the cash fund was missing from the front desk cashier.

The officer found that two separate sales—one for \$626.15 dated June 1, 2007 and the other for \$787.75 dated June 3, 2007—were missing.

The officer discovered that the sales clerk during those separate sales was Santiago.

An officer manager told the officer that on April 1, 2007, \$622.56 was also missing from the cash fund and that Santiago was also the sales clerk at the time.

Prior to April 1, 2007, the defendant also had \$211.47 missing from her change fund when she was the cashier. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Police are hunting down man a man who, along with another person, was allegedly involved in a burglary at a house of a police officer's mother.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said that operatives of the DPS Thief Apprehension Select Coalition are seeking the community's help in providing information on the whereabouts of Wainy Willander Moses, also known as Richard Moses.

Moses, 21, is described as having a ponytail, slim, and about 5'2" tall.

Ogumoro said the suspect's last residence was in Afetnas, but had possibly relocated to Chalan Kanoa or Koblerville.

The DPS spokesperson said that Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman had



Moses

issued an arrest warrant for Moses on Feb. 22, 2008, for the charges of receiving stolen property and accessory to commit burglary and theft.

Ogumoro did not provide details about the burglary.

Detective Simon T. Manacop stated in his report that Moses and Joshua Lee Santos were involved in the burglary at the residence of Rita Celis in Koblerville on April 7, 2007.

Celis is mother of Police Of-

ficer Regino Celis.

Manacop said it was Officer Celis himself who saw his mother's stolen laptop that was allegedly sold by Moses and co-defendant Joshua Lee Santos to

See **MANHUNT** on Next Page

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Japanese media battle unlikely obstacle: Saipan's hot climate

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Japanese media covering the extradition case of businessman Kazuyoshi Miura have to battle an unlikely obstacle: Saipan's hot climate.

As court proceedings in the Miura case now enter the fourth week, many of the visiting journalists and their staff who have been camping out in front of the Department of Corrections in Susupe are getting quite a tan.

Unlike the women who are buying hats at Joeten and other stores and applying sunblocks to protect themselves from the scorching sun, many male journalists and their crew are getting sunburned.

"It's very humid and hot here!" Jiji Press writer Takuya Sogawa told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sogawa said he has no sunburn so far because he has been applying sunblock every morning.

"I stay under the tree and have lots of water," said Sogawa, who usually can be seen holding a bottled water and is either standing or sitting under a bread fruit in front of the DOC where the journalists have put up tents.

Sogawa said he has been on the island for more than two weeks now.

"At first it's very exciting, but now

it's kind of hard to find a story. We don't have exciting event right now," he said.

Sogawa said they are still pursuing every angle and waiting for other exciting developments.

"Because, as the governor [Fitial] said, we are aggressive," he pointed out.

The Jiji Press writer will possibly



Holding copies of two local newspapers carrying headlines of the extradition case against Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura, a Japanese TV reporter aired the report recently in front of the Department of Corrections in Susupe.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

stay on the island until March 20 because the next hearing will be on March 19. "I'm sure I will come back again," Sogawa said.

Midori Kawagoe, TV Tokyo Corp. news division program director, said

the island is "very nice" but "it's really, really, really, really hot!"

Kawagoe has been on the island for more than two weeks now. She said it is very cold in Japan right now because it is still the winter season.

Kawagoe has yet to buy a hat, but uses sunblock and always stays under a tree or tent whenever no news development happens.

"I also drink water a lot," said Kawagoe, who joined TV Tokyo last April.

She said she is very excited to report on the case. "This is my first big job and I am excited," Kawagoe said. "I like it here."

For Ishihara Junko, TV Tokyo Seoul Bureau chief, who just arrived Thursday, she said she likes the island, although the very hot climate surprised her.

"It's very nice," Junko said, adding that she has purchased a hat and has been using sunblock.

In Seoul, it is the beginning of spring so the weather is getting warmer and warmer, she said.

"I [brought] long sleeved shirts because I don't like to get sunburn. I have also bottled water in my taxi," she said.

Junko said the coverage of the Miura case is extensive because "it's very exciting news for Japan, for us."

the first Asian to win world titles in three different weight classes.

Marianas Cable Vision system manager Mark Birmingham said that yesterday's show was a great fight.

"This is the fourth time we've done it with the World Resort. And we are happy with the results. We are happy to be working with World Resort, Budweiser, [and] Marpac," Birmingham said.

He said that over 300 people watched the fight. "And it looks like everybody had a great time; it's just a very, very

Hong Kong-based Naoko Okaya, a veteran reporter in Southeast Asia, said she is used to the humid weather and is using sunblock and a hat to protect herself from the elements.

"Everybody is getting really tanned," said Okaya, a writer of TV Tokyo Hong Kong bureau.

Okaya observed that since most of the men are not wearing hats and not applying sun protection, they are really getting dark.

She said she and her colleagues all went to Joeten to buy hats.

During their first week, Okaya said they just stayed under the trees, but later decided to buy a tent because all of the TV stations had put up tents.

"Mainly for me, water is fine," she said who has been pursuing the Miura

proceedings since Feb. 24.

She said they are waiting for the March 19 hearing where they would decide whether to stay some more or leave the island.

"We might just leave a little bit and then come back to see how things are moving on," she said.

Okaya said the Miura coverage is a good chance for the Japanese media to learn the difference in court procedures between Japan and the CNMI.

"But I think the court system here is very interesting because it's quite open. We are able to see the documents and people are very friendly. They talk to us, we can talk to them. That's quite different from the Japan system. So it's really a good experience," she added.

MANHUNT

From Page 3

the No. 1 Bar in Chalan Kanoa.

Officer Celis responded to No. 1 Bar on April 14, 2007, after receiving information from a relative who first saw the stolen laptop at the establishment.

Police have already arrested Santos.

During police's questioning on Jan. 30, 2008, Moses admitted it was Santos who entered the victim's house and that he only waited

outside. Moses also allegedly admitted they later sold the laptop to the No. 1 Bar.

On the other hand, Santos told an investigator that Moses offered him \$10 to sell a laptop at No. 1 Bar.

When an employee at the No. 1 Bar opened the computer, Santos said he recognized the picture on the laptop as Officer Celis and his family.

It was not immediately learned why Moses was not arrested during his questioning in January 2008. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

OVER

From Page 1

general admission venue at Royal Taga Hall erupted in a huge roar when announcer Michael Buffer announced Pacquiao as "the new super feather-weight champion of the world."

The crowd yelled, clapped their hands, and raised their fists in jubilation when Buffer said it was a split decision in favor of the Filipino pugilist.

The spectators cheered wildly when Pacquiao's left hook caught the Mexican's face for a knockdown with 21 seconds left in the third round.

The fans also yelled when the boxers exchanged staggering punches throughout the 12 rounds of their long-awaited rematch, dubbed "Unfinished Business." The fight between the two four years ago ended in a controversial draw. In that fight, Pacquiao knocked Marquez thrice in the first round.

Yesterday's victory made Pacquiao

CONVERT

From Page 1

During a debate on the floor last week, the Saipan lawmaker even allowed his temper to get the better of him when the legislation was about to be passed by his colleagues.

"Our Legislative Bureau keeps saying that they don't have money. Jesus Christ...look at our nameplates...they're made out of paper," he said, ripping his nameplate from its holder, crumpling it, and throwing it to the center of the chamber.

"This is what we want... so be it. But

I'm not going to sit here as the chairman of the Way and Means and allow this. [Expletive], give me at least an opportunity to work with this...we have a House bill that is still in the Senate," he added, before his seething tirade was interrupted by fellow lawmakers.

In an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* a day after the passage of the controversial measure, a more composed Yumul offered his opinion about the bill.

"Look, we're only two months into this term. Can't we just work with the existing budget and correct it? It's at the Senate. We can ask the Senate to make the correction and

allow for the exemptions to be implemented again in the bill.

"But it wasn't supported by the members and they encouraged me to withdraw the amendment. But I said 'no,' you're asking me as a chairman of Ways and Means to seriously look at our financial conditions to include reduction in force, including salary reductions based on austerity Fridays and holidays, and yet here we are condoning this thing that they're already employed," he said.

Yumul said that one alternative is for government agencies with over-the-salary-cap employees to follow the lead of the defunct Marianas Public

loud crowd," said Birmingham.

The live broadcast was sponsored by World Resort, Marpac Budweiser, MCV Broadband, and Dial Rent-To-Own.

Ray Austin, the hotel's Food and Beverage manager, said the fight "was fantastic, very close, and very exciting."

Austin noted that Pacquiao knocked down Marquez one time and they both got hurt.

"You can see it in their faces. Marquez was obviously hurt. It was a good

decision I think," he said.

Austin said close to 400 people watched the fight in 10 TV sets, including two giant screens.

Retired Immigration investigator Richard Lizama said he now lives in Guam, but came to Saipan to watch the event. He thinks it was a good fight.

"I came here today to just watch this fight here...to join you guys on Saipan," said the former Immigration investigator, who also watched previous Pacquiao fights.

Lands Authority.

"Let's go down to OPM [Office of Personnel Management] and have them do what they have done with MPLA when it was converted to DPL. They did a review of all of their salaries and, based on OPM's recommendations, corrected the salaries to reflect that of a civil service position and the salary commensurate with that," he said.

Yumul added that he and Senate President Pete Reyes are in favor of making Legislative Bureau employees fall under the civil service.

"I'm actually contemplating that because for one, it gets the Legislature

to be a hands-off on the [Legislative] Bureau, so that it's not political but at the same time it helps correct certain salaries because we're looking at reduction in revenues and we're looking at severe streamlining of expenditures, which would reflect a reduction in force, austerity holidays and Fridays being implemented and this is the best place to start," he said.

Yumul also added that since staff of the Legislative Bureau is renewed each year, the House and Senate legal counsel should check if allowing certain employees to receive over-the-salary cap wages is not violation of the law.

NEW

From Page 1

under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Title VII of S.2739—much like Title VII of S.2483—would extend immigration law and create a federally run guest-worker program in the CNMI (Subtitle A).

It would also give the CNMI a delegate in the House (Subtitle B) with limited voting powers. Currently, all U.S. possessions except the CNMI have a delegate in Congress.

The provision also includes language that will benefit Guam. Under the bill, there will be a unified visa-waiver pro-

gram for Guam and the CNMI based on the existing Guam-only visa waiver program, which was authorized by Congress in 1986.

The new visa waiver program would authorize tourists entering either Guam or the CNMI under the program to stay in either location, or any combination of both locations for a maximum 45 days. This extends the current Guam-only visa waiver program, which provides only for a 15-day period of stay.

In addition, the provision would exempt Guam and the CNMI from national caps for the number of H-2 temporary worker visas that could be issued for work in either location. This is expected to help Guam and the

CNMI meet the construction demands associated with the planned military buildup in the region.

S.2739—and S.2483 for that matter—adopted in toto the provisions of H.R. 3079, which was passed by the House of Representatives on Dec. 11, 2007. It was crafted by Rep. Donna Christensen of U.S. Virgin Islands.

The provision, however, does not include the controversial measure granting improved status to long-term guest workers in the CNMI. Instead, the provision pertaining to CNMI immigration in the new omnibus bill requires the U.S. administration to submit to Congress within two years after S.2739's enactment a report with recommendations on how

to grant the guest workers a more permanent status.

S.2739 was introduced in the U.S. Senate last Monday (Tuesday in the CNMI) and the provision on the Northern Mariana Islands federalization of immigration leaps out from the bill's very definition, which is:

"A bill to authorize certain programs and activities in the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service, and the Department of Energy, to implement further the Act approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, to amend the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003,

and for other purposes.

S.2739 is in the first step in the legislative process. Introduced bills go first to committees that deliberate, investigate, and revise them before they go to general debate.

The majority of bills, however, never make it out of committee. It should be kept in mind that sometimes the text of one bill is incorporated into another bill, and in those cases the original bill, as it would appear here, would seem to be abandoned as is the case of the derailed S.2483.

This bill is in the first stage of the legislative process, where the bill is considered in committee and may undergo significant changes in markup sessions.

DPL: Asia Scooter's permit will be amended to include parking

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Asia Scooter is not violating the terms of its lease agreement with the Department of Public Lands and its permit is in the process of being amended to include scooter, motorcycle, and vehicle rental activity.

This was the response provided Wednesday by Department of Public Lands Secretary John S. DelRosario Jr. to an Open Government request filed March 5 by Taotao Tano president Gregorio Cruz Jr.

DelRosario explained that Public Lands and Jun & Han Corp. (dba Asia Scooter) entered into a lease agreement on Sept. 4, 2007, to use a portion of public land totaling 11 square meters to maintain the company's building. He said the terms of the rental agreement is \$253 per year for the first five years.

While DelRosario said that the company's parking permit will be amended soon, the rental units will still either be relocated to the existing permitted site or will be permitted at the current site. He also told Cruz that pay-

ment terms will also take into account a percentage of gross receipts from the rental activity.

DelRosario's answer to Taotao Tano and Cruz's request were also furnished to assistant attorney general Braddock Huesman as well as Public Lands divisions of Real Estate, Compliance, and Planning.

Aside from the query on Asia Scooter's lease of public lands in Garapan, Taotao Tano and Cruz also requested DelRosario to provide them the lease agreement between DPL and the Marianas Fruitland and Wildlife Theme Park.

DelRosario, however, asked Taotao Tano and Cruz to give his department until March 25 to provide them the documents.

Group to file complaint vs DPL, MPLA

Taotao Tano and its president Gregorio Cruz Jr. is apparently not content with the response given by Department of Public Lands Secretary John S. DelRosario on the lease agreement it entered with Asia Scooter and is expected to file a complaint with the Office of Public Auditor.

"The problem with the public land lease issue on Asia Scooter is, since the start of our inquiries, we ran into discrepancies on leasehold given to Asia Scooter... therefore since all this discrepancies had surfaced on such a small piece of public land, Taotao Tano will be filing a complaint to the Office

of the Public Auditor and any other government enforcement agency to conduct a full audit and investigation on all public lands under the care of DPL, to include the defunct MPLA," Cruz said in a statement to the media yesterday.

In the statement, the Taotao Tano president listed discrepancies in Public Lands' response and questioned why the department allowed Asia Scooter to execute a temporary parking permit even before a leasehold for the office's premises was filed.

Cruz also took issue with the temporary parking permit saying that "the purpose of temporary parking permit is solely

for its employee's parking and customer's vehicular parking and no other purposes. But today the lessee is utilizing said parking space to park owned car rentals, not customer-owned vehicles. This is a clear violation of temporary parking permit and why outside the fence line of school zone."

Taotao Tano went on to say that because of the discrepancies, "there is clear evidence that a cover-up is now being pursued. DPL should have revoked and imposed fines on this company for using and abusing public land years prior to executing leasehold and including temporary parking permit." (Mark Rabago)

"The office set up is a higher quality than most ophthalmologist offices here in the U.S."



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Dr. Mark Robertson, OD
Magna Cum Laude

Dr. Khorram uses the latest cataract extraction techniques that are being used at U.S. mainland facilities. He has a brand new phaco machine which is the latest on the market. I was very impressed with Marianas Eye Institute's office, overall organization, and cataract surgery facility. The office set up is a higher quality than most ophthalmologist offices here in the U.S. I was very impressed with the friendly and extremely helpful staff.

John Garland
Advanced Medical Optics
Regional Technician-California



Marianas Eye Institute

"Where Technology Meets Talent"

235-9090

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*Plated Brunch served on Sunday but not part of the lunch club



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Request for Proposal RFP 08-013

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for services to be rendered under the MHS Safe Haven Program. **The Marianas High School Safe Haven Program is a unique program with the goal of providing a safe, clean environment for after school hours, weekends, and summer vacations for organized and open sports and fitness activities.**

Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 08-013" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than March 28, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 08-013, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1) original and one (1) copy). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via the following e-mail address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ **Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.**
Commissioner of Education

/S/ **Carl F. de la Cruz, M.B.A.**
Acting P & S Officer

Worker who paid \$4K to get a job seeks to find employer

An alien worker who paid \$4,000 to an unlicensed recruiter in China to obtain a job in the CNMI has asked the Superior Court to order the Department of Labor to locate his employer, whom he allegedly never met.

Shunpeng Chen, through counsel Reynaldo Yana, asked the court to require Labor to locate the whereabouts of the owner of CP (Central Pacific) Corp. in his labor complaint against the company.

Chen also asked the court to dismiss the decisions of a Labor administrative hearing officer and the Labor Secretary permanently barring him

from the CNMI.

The Chinese worker named CP Corp. as defendant in his petition for judicial review.

Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas had upheld the Labor Administrative Hearing Office's decision permanently barring Chen from the CNMI after finding out that he had entered the Commonwealth via fraudulent means.

In affirming the administrative hearing officer's decision, San Nicolas said Chen's contention that his recruiting agent is responsible for any wrongdoing "hardly seems plausible as he remained idle for over two

years with no attempts to rectify the wrongdoing."

"The fact that Mr. Chen was present in the Commonwealth for over two years prior to the labor hearing date proves that he is not needed for employment," said the Secretary in affirming the order issued by then administrative hearing officer and now Labor director Barry Hirshbein.

According to Labor records, Chen filed his Labor case in November 2005. He arrived in the CNMI on June 25, 2005, and allegedly was unable to find his employer, CP Central Pacific Corp. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Golden Harvest shines in PGFC contest



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The winning students of the Golden Harvest International School pose with their medals and ribbons.

The recently concluded Regional PGFC competition, held at Marianas High School on March 8, 2008, gave another victory to the students of Golden Harvest International School. Most of the school's participants won the competition.

The students' coaches were Rosalie Habjian, Liezel Espiritu, Bona Angeles, and Meliza Umali.

The students who received awards include:

MEDALS

Finals in Duo:

Silver Medal En Ming Cacdac & Ivy Leong
4th place Newlyn Jeter & Francheska Fauni
5th place Alyanna Mercado & Kai Andre Ortega

Finals in Choral Speaking:

Gold Medal Nicole Aguilar, Curtis Mostales, En Ming Cacdac, Iny Leong, Alyanna Mercado
Bronze Medal Angelo Talens, Fernan Ramos, Allen James Aguilar, Michael Dasco, Christian Batallones

Finals in Humorous Interpretation:

Gold Medal Daniel Montano
Silver Medal Emmanuel Cobacha
Bronze Medal Stephen Seth Alonzo

5th place Vince Philip Salvador

Finals in Dramatic Interpretation:

Gold Medal Holly Liban
Silver Medal Kai Andre Ortega
Bronze Medal Daphne Cruzat

ELIMINATION ROUND:

Ribbons

Choral Speaking A:

1st place Vince Philip Salvador, Jordan Towai, Gia Hemley, Uzziel Cobacha, Ramhae Awit
3rd place Holly Liban, Daphne Cruzat, Erie Kate Ortega, Kristina Crisostomo, Faith Bocago
5th place Daniel Montano, Stephen Seth Alonzo, Emmanuel Cobacha, Geuel Villacrusis, Melvin Hermoso

Choral Speaking C:

1st place Nicole Aguilar, En Ming Cacdac, Ivy Leong, Alyanna Mercado, Curtis Mostales
2nd place Angelo Talens, Fernan Ramos, Christian Batallones, Allen James Aguilar
3rd place Ydylle Faye Acosta, Joanie Paraiso, Clarisse Torio, Ronald Fuellas, Alfie Madlambayan

Humorous Interpretation A:

1st place Vince Philip Salvador
2nd place Daniel Montano

Humorous Interpretation B:

1st place Emmanuel Cobacha
2nd place Stephen Seth Alonzo

Dramatic Interpretation A:

1st place Kai Andre Ortega
4th place Nicole Aguilar
5th place Natalie Montano

Dramatic Interpretation B:

1st place Holly Liban
2nd place Daphne Cruzat
4th place Ramhae Awit

Duo B:

1st place En Ming Cacdac
3rd place Alfie Madlambayan & Ronald Fuellas

Duo C:

1st place Newlyn Jeter & Francheska Fauni
2nd place Kai Andre Ortega & Alyanna Mercado
3rd place Curtis Mostales & Michael Dasco
4th place Natalie Montano & Ydylle Faye Acosta
5th place Geuel Villacrusis & Melvin Sean Hermoso

3-5 DIVISION:

Choral Speaking:

3rd place Shekinah Grace Armea, Stevie Jeter, Iris Leong

Reader's Forum A:

4th place Angelica Carla Diaz

Dramatic Interpretation A:

4th place Nathaniel Montano

Dramatic Interpretation B:

4th place Iris Leong



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
State Board of Education
Public School System
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID IFB 08-020

The Public School System and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **School and Office Furniture, Computers, LCD Projectors, and Accessories for Marianas High School, Saipan and Tinian Elementary School, Tinian.** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-020" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **March 25, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-020, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$ 3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of \$.50 per hour that is scheduled to take effect on May 26, 2008 and extending further, until the hourly rate equals that of the Federal Minimum Wage of \$ 7.50 per hour.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with CNMI Public School System Procurement Regulations. Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the Contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

The CNMI Public School System hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

Pursuant to the Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is ninety (90) Calendar days beginning with the date of Notice to Proceed. The Contractor shall pay to the CNMI Public School System the greater sum of U.S. **\$100.00 per day (One Hundred Dollars), or 2% of the total contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time**, not as a penalty, but as reasonable liquidated damages for failing, neglecting, or refusing to complete the work within the time herein specified, and said sums shall be paid for each consecutive calendar day that the Contractor shall be in default beyond the time stipulated for completing the work.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ **Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.**
Commissioner of Education

/S/ **Manuel A. Sablan**
NMHC Board Chairman

/S/ **Carl de la Cruz, M.B.A.**
Acting P&S Officer

BEH closes down 3 in Feb. for violations

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
editor@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Since January, the Bureau of Environmental Health has closed down five establishments and one roadside vendor due to serious violations of health and sanitation standards.

The latest establishments closed were the Majestic Chinese Restaurant in Garapan, which was closed down on Feb. 5; the Island Farmers Market in

Susupe, closed down on Feb. 15, and a roadside vendor with license plate ABX 923, closed down on Feb. 4, 2008.

All three, however, have already re-opened after addressing the concerns raised by the bureau. The Majestic Chinese Restaurant re-opened on Feb. 6, the Island Farmers Market on Feb. 15, and the roadside vendor on Feb. 12.

Establishments closed down in January were Lucky BBQ in Susupe, on Jan. 3; Mr. Fan Yao

Xing in Sugar King Park, on Jan. 11; and Kinpachi Restaurant in Garapan, on Jan. 31, 2008. Both Mr. Fan Yao Xing and Kinpachi Restaurant have since re-opened, with Mr. Fan Yao Xing re-opening on Feb. 11 and Kinpachi re-opening on Feb. 1, 2008.

In December 2007, the bureau closed down the Jin Joo Restaurant in Chalan Kanoa.

The bureau also conducted sanitary inspections in February on the following retails, eating

and drinking establishments and their grades are as follow:

Grade "A"

1. Palms Resort SPN (outlets), San Roque
2. Paradise Restaurant, Capital Hill
3. Sushi Land, Gualo Rai
4. Ace Hardware, Gualo Rai
5. Highway Express, Gualo Rai
6. Blue Lagoon Night Club, Garapan
7. Seoul One Rest., Garapan
8. Penguin Night Club, Garapan
9. Kimichi Cabana Night Club, Garapan
10. Porky's Beach Bar, Garapan
11. GIG Discotheque, Garapan
12. Jazz Bar, Garapan
13. Wild Bill's Bar & Grill, Garapan
14. China House Restaurant, Garapan

15. Pierre's Restaurant, Garapan
16. Hula Girl, Garapan
17. Tun Kiku's Market, Garapan
18. Apple's Karaoke Night Club, Garapan
19. Joe's Bar & Grill, Garapan
20. Happiness Restaurant, Garapan
21. Plumeria Store II, Chalan Lau Lau
22. New Music Bank Karaoke, San Jose
23. Saipan World Resort Hotel, (outlets), Susupe
24. Ocean Palace Shark's Fin Rest., Susupe
25. Kelly's Place Karaoke, Susupe
26. Snap Corner, Nauru Bldg., Susupe
27. SPN Grand Hotel (outlets), Susupe
28. Boss Karaoke, Chalan Kanoa
29. Sweetie Restaurant, Chalan Kanoa
30. Moon Night Club, Chalan

- Kanoa
31. Karaoke Music Hall, Chalan Kanoa
32. Lulu Store, San Antonio
33. Skyway Café, Airport Road
34. 4 A's Mart, Airport Road
35. Tudela's Ent. Retail, San Vicente
36. MV Reyes Snack Bar, NMC Campus
37. Jin Store, Dan Dan
38. New Sister Market, Dan Dan
39. LJ's Catering, Dan Dan
40. PSG Café & CJ's BBQ, Kagman
41. M.V. Reyes Catering, Papago

Grade "B"

1. 747 Dining Restaurant, Garapan
 2. Parliament Bar, Chalan Kanoa
- There may have been changes to these grades since this information was released. For updated information, call the bureau at 664-4870 or fax 664-4871.

Flame Tree arts fest registration opens

Vendor registration opens today, March 17, for the 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival, slated for April 24-27, 2008, at the Civic Center in Saipan. The Flame Tree Arts Festival is Micronesia's largest annual arts and culture celebration, featuring traditional and contemporary visual, performing and culinary arts from the region and beyond.

"We are very excited about this year's festival," said 2008 Flame Tree Arts Festival chair Ramona Rebuenog. "This year we are providing more artistic and cultural interaction on-site, which will make the festival a more meaningful experience for both residents and visitors, alike."

With the theme "Fatta I Irenciata, Abwáari Yaasch Schówammwir", Showcase our Inheritance," this year's festival

will present a number of Arts in Education workshops. Demonstrations will include the preparation of traditional Chamorro and Carolinian food and medicine, coconut oil, and salt; pandanas weaving; and carving.

Traditional navigator Henry Yarofalipy will also demonstrate the construction of a Carolinian sailing canoe during the festival. Off-island delegations from Rota, Tinian and other island nations in Micronesia have also been invited to participate.

Registration forms are available at the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture on Capital Hill. Registration costs are \$650 for food and business vendors, \$350 for non-profit, \$150 for artists, and \$100 for information. Registrants must submit copies of their business license, food handlers' certification, and non-profit charter, if

applicable. Artists must be registered with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture.

"In addition to celebrating the diverse cultures represented in our islands, this year's Flame Tree Arts Festival is going to be an opportunity to learn about and experience some of the elements of Chamorro and Carolinian culture that is not always accessible to the general public," said CCAC executive director Cecilia Taitano-Celes. "We encourage vendors to register early, as we have only 20 food vendor slots and 60 other slots available."

Registration will be open until 4:30pm on April 17, 2008. For more information about the Flame Tree Arts Festival, contact the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture at 670-322-9982/3 or e-mail marianasarts@pticom.com. (CCAC)



GTC FIELD TRIP

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

As part of a social studies and science class, fourth graders at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School went on a daylong field trip on March 11, 2008, to the CNMI Museum of History and Culture, the Chamolinian Village and the American Memorial Park Museum. Picture shows the 4th graders having their picture taken with Erin Mortensen, third row center, an NMC student-teacher currently teaching 4th grade social studies lessons at GTC as part of her NMC practicum requirement.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

ACT sets Wednesday meeting

The CNMI Association of Commonwealth Teachers Association will have a General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, March 19, at 6pm, in the San Vicente Elementary School's cafeteria.

Topics for discussion include:

- 1) Update on appointment of a Teacher's Representative to the Board of Education.
- 2) Plans for the upcoming election of Vice-President and Secretary
- 3) Updates on ACT activities and the Board of Education

4) Needs or concerns from teachers.

All interested members of the community are invited to attend.

For information contact Betty Miller at 237-3761 or 287-2386.

Wednesday vigil marks 5th year of Iraq war

For several months now, a small group of concerned residents has gathered every Friday afternoon at the American Memorial Park to silently protest the Iraq war and pray for all who are serving in the nation's armed services.

This Wednesday, March 19,

marks the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq and the group will once more gather at the American Memorial Park from 5:30pm to 5:55pm to mark this milestone.

"Concerned residents are welcome to join the group as we pray for all (and their families) who are serving in Iraq. Our hope and prayer is for the war to cease, our brave service people to return home safely, and for the people of Iraq to live in peace," the group said in a statement.

"The Peace Vigil is not meant to be a political statement," they said. "Rather, to reaffirm that peace is also patriotic." (PR)



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



AMENDED #02 INVITATION FOR BID

This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.

IFB NO.: NMHC - IFB08-006A – ROTA
NMHC - IFB08-006B – TINIAN

AMEND DATES OF PRE-BID CONFERENCE

FOR: Building Maintenance of Section 8 Housing Units in Rota and Tinian

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide building maintenance services for its Section 8 Housing Units in Rota and Tinian.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at any of the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; or Songsong Village, Rota, beginning February 27, 2008, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

Two (2) separate mandatory Pre-Bid Conferences will each be held on the Islands of Rota and Tinian. In Rota, the Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office located on the 1st Floor of the Sunset Villa Hotel in Sonton, Rota on ~~Wednesday, March 19, 2008~~, Tuesday, March 18, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., and in Tinian, the Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office located in the Juan King Building in San Jose Village at ~~10:30 a.m.~~ 2:00 p.m. on ~~Thursday March 20, Wednesday, March 19, 2008~~. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Bidders are reminded that this announcement covers two (2) separate bids—one for Rota, and one for Tinian.

Sealed bids shall be identified on outside of the envelope by Invitation for Bids No. NMHC IFB08-006A - Building Maintenance for Section 8 Housing Units (ROTA) or NMHC IFB08-006B - Building Maintenance for Section 8 Housing Units (TINIAN). An original and three (3) copies of the bid must be submitted to the Procurement and Supply Office, Lower Base, Saipan no later than 10:00 am, **March 27, 2008**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid.

Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 am local time, **March 27, 2008**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service, the official government postal service of a foreign country, or a commercial courier, no later than **March 27, 2008**, and must be received no later than **April 7, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 am, local time **April 8, 2008**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 am, local time on **March 27, 2008**.

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of \$.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor until the hourly rate equals that of the Federal Minimum Wage of \$7.50 per hour.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Rota and Tinian.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

Should you require additional information, please direct inquiries to Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager, via email to ecfjeran@nmhc.gov.mp or facsimile at (670) 234-9021.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Chairman of the Board

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

Looking back at the Mariana Islands the past 62 years



PHOTO BY DMS

Ribbon cutting ceremony of the grand opening of the 200-room Saipan Beach Inter-Continental Hotel on July 26, 1976. The hotel was later torn down and Dai-Ichi Hotel was constructed on the same place. From left, Mr. Ochi, vice president of Keio Plaza Hotel; Kane Rufe, president of Inter-Continental Hotels Asia Pacific; Erwin Canham, Resident Commissioner for the CNMI; David M. Sablan, president of Pacific Micronesia Corporation (owning company), M. Kanematsu, vice chairman, Japan Travel Bureau, Inc.; Edward Trippe, vice president Inter-Continental Hotels (son of the founder of Pan American World Airways).

SHRM to spotlight new labor law

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management will be meeting this month to discuss Public Law 15-108, or the CNMI labor reform law, which was enacted on Jan. 1, 2008.

The meeting will be held Thursday, March 20, 2008, at the Theater Hall of the Palms Resort Saipan.

The guest speakers at the meeting are Labor Deputy Secretary Jacinta Kaipat, who authored the law during her term as a congresswoman; Employment Services director Alfred Pangelinan, Labor director Barry Hirshbein, acting Immigration director Maj. Tony Sablan, Labor legal counsel Eleanor Nisperos, and Deanne Seimmer, Esq.

Important issues regarding the labor reform law, including processing procedures, transfers, exit requirement and

much more, will be discussed at the meeting.

All businesses in the CNMI are subject to meet the provisions of the CNMI labor law. All businesses must maintain the minimum standards of living necessary for health, efficiency and the general well-being of workers. It is also a way for employers to provide and maintain standard labor conditions among workers.

"This panel forum will be very informative and appropriate for all human resource professionals. All members and guest are encouraged to attend this event to ensure that your respective organizations are well informed of the workplace requirements. Please join fellow human resource colleagues to have all your questions clarified and answered. All members are encouraged to bring a guest,"

said the Society in a statement issued Friday.

The Thursday meeting will run from 9am to 1pm. Registration begins at 8am. The cost to attend the meeting is \$25 for SHRM members and \$35 for non-SHRM members (inclusive of lunch and all materials). Government PO accepted.

Contact Eva McKinney at 322-3311 ext. 2021 or by fax 322-3144 at the Palms Resort. Reservations can also be made via email to Polly Guerrero at pdlguerrero@mymarianas.com or Frannie T. Salas at frances-

salas@gmail.com.

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management is the Commonwealth's foremost professional forum for discussion and training in Human Resource matters. Recognized as a Superior Merit Chapter, the CNMI Chapter is composed of HR Professionals from a variety of industries, large and small, who recognize a need for a local society for professionals in the human resource field. The CNMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. (Saipan Tribune)

Nauru calm after police station torched

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Nauru Government says while it is safe and calm after a violent protest last Friday, a squad of 100 volunteers called in by police, remains on duty.

The Foreign and Finance Minister, Dr Kieren Keke, says separate investigations are underway into two separate incidents, including the torching of the main police station.

He says a family clan with long standing grievances and their local MP, the Opposition Leader, Rene Harris, could face a raft of charges, and others will

follow over the fire, which is being investigated by Australian arson experts.

Dr Keke says the Government did consider asking donors for more policing assistance.

"And it was felt that we didn't need outside help and that the police have the authority to call in reserves if needed, and it has been clear that since calling in the reserves there have been no threats and no disorder of any kind, and so we are confident that the police have law and order well in hand and that everybody on Nauru is safe."

NZ to scrap transit visa requirement

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The New Zealand Government is to scrap transit visas, which have long been regarded by Pacific people as onerous and unfair.

Auckland airport is a key access point to many Pacific countries, in some cases almost all foreign airlinks are via New Zealand's largest city.

But the visa is to go and travelers from Pacific Islands Forum countries, except Fiji, will benefit.

The Department of Labour's Tofilau Kerupi Tavita, says the fee was initially put in place

to control asylum seekers entering the country through the Pacific, but there is now no such perceived threat.

He says there had also been complaints around the region while Air New Zealand had asked the Government to reconsider the visa requirement.

"We see it as New Zealand being responsive to its Pacific neighbors, recognizing that there is quite a lot of travel within the region. So we see it as a positive move forward with New Zealand continuing to demonstrate that it is part of the region."

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 17, 2003

MHS holds 17th annual cultural day

Marianas High School students joined at least 130 Japanese cultural exchange program participants in a whole day of fun Saturday to mark the 17th Annual MHS-Seisa Gakuen Cultural Exchange Program. With this year's theme, "Let's Build A Friendship Bridge Between Marianas and Seisa," students from both schools rendered performances during the event, which kicked off at 9am and lasted up to 4pm yesterday.

Third counter seen to hasten airport inspections

Departing passengers would be properly served and thoroughly inspected once the third screening counter at the departure area of the Saipan International Airport is completed. Transportation Security Administration-Saipan Office director John T. Peoples disclosed Friday that the additional screening counter at the Saipan airport would double the number of passengers screened on a given time.

Senate repeals, reenacts Film Office law

The public law that established the CNMI Film Office was repealed and reenacted by the Senate during a session this week, three months after the House reintroduced and passed the legislation that would fix the constitutional issue raised in the revenue-generation measure. The Senate voted to pass House Bill 13-236, Senate Substitute 1, or the measure that would repeal and reenact Section 6 of Public law 13-29 pertaining to the permit fee regulations of the CNMI Film Office.

March 17, 2004

Parental choice of schools opposed

The Public School System is opposing the passage of a House bill that would allow parents to freely choose which school within the system to send their children. Associate education commissioner Rita A. Sablan, in a letter to the Legislature, said allowing parents to move their children from school to school "in search of the 'best' school will reduce PSS to a game of musical chairs."

WASC warns NMC anew on CSC coverage

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges has warned Northern Marianas College anew on its accreditation, in view of a pending Senate bill proposing to place the college under the Civil Service Commission. Barbara Beno, executive director of WASC's Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, said in a March 11, 2004 letter to NMC Board of Regents chair Kimberly King-Hinds that the commission has not changed its requirements on the matter of institutional autonomy.

'Sloppy' handling of Verizon sale scored

The treatment of the company that has been attempting to buy the local telephone exchange from Verizon since 2001 is confirming the worst fears of investors about the CNMI government, according to prominent Saipan businessman and former Commonwealth Development Authority chairman Juan S. Tenorio, in a media release. "We've spent at least a couple of millions of dollars in government travel to promote business opportunities in the CNMI and this is important," Tenorio said, "but any benefit of these marketing efforts is being negated by what any foreign investor or businessman is going to see as the unfair and discriminatory treatment of certain investors for reasons that ultimately remain unclear to many of us."

March 17, 2005

Initiative provokes testy session

House minority leader Heinz S. Hofschneider lost his temper yesterday and lashed out at his colleagues, and even the legal counsels, over what he said is a lack of needed impact analysis and sound legal advice on a proposed initiative that seeks to give municipal councils lawmaking powers. The incident triggered a decision by the House of Representatives to put on hold all pending initiatives until they are reviewed by a special committee that will be formed for this purpose.

Volume of cargo passing through seaport drops

The impact of the ongoing closures and downsizing within the garment industry has started to manifest, with the volume of inbound and outbound cargo recorded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority posting a decline. CPA data showed that the total cargo processed at the Port of Saipan reached only 240,562 tons during the first five months of fiscal year 2005—a 4-percent drop compared with the same period last year.

Possible Prior Service benefits

The following individuals or their surviving spouse may be eligible for Prior Service benefits. If you or your deceased spouse's name is listed below and you worked for the U.S. Navy or Trust Territory Government for five or more years before July 1, 1968, call the Prior Service Office at 322-9753 only on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 8am and noon.

If your name is listed below and you are still working for the government or private sector, please do not call until you retire. Previous lists were published on March 5, March 9, and March 13, 2008. Visit the Archives section of www.saipantribune.com to check previous lists.

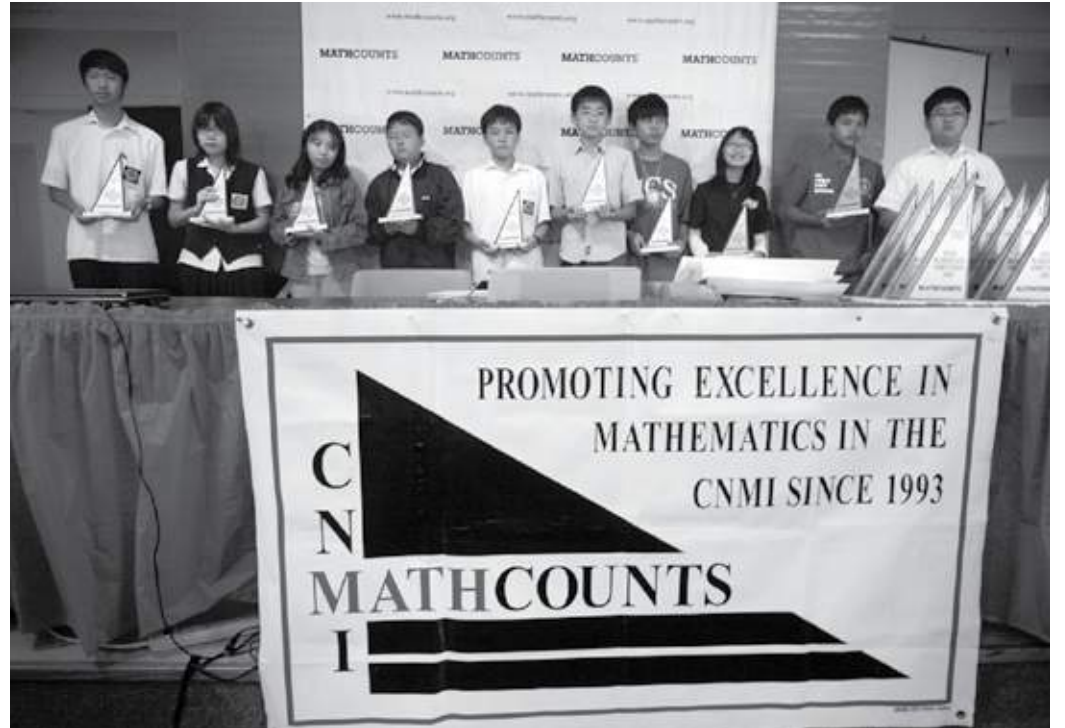
- Magofna, Antonio B
- Manglona, Benjamin T
- Manglona, Jose G
- Manglona, Lucio M
- Manglona, Vicente M
- Manglona, Jose SN
- Maratita, Isaias S
- Masga, Bienvenido M
- Masga, Ignacio C

- Masga, Mateo
- Masga, Santiago C
- Matagoloi, Vicente S
- Muna, Antonio C
- Muna, Isidro A
- Muna, Maria P
- Muna, Moises
- Nekai, Thimeteo
- Nestor, Marino
- Ngirbadul, Rosario E
- Olopai, Dominina F
- Olopai, Maximo F
- Omang, Dembei (Uhang)
- Palacios, Isabel C
- Palacios, Jose M
- Pangelinan, Herminia
- Pangelinan, Joseph K
- Pangelinan, Juan N
- Pilisaman, Alfredo
- Pua, Jesus S
- Quitugua, Fermin M
- Rangamar, Daniel I
- Rechucher, Eusebio
- Repeki, Daniel
- Repeki, Maria N
- Reyes, Alfonso
- Reyes, Efrain M
- Reyes, Francisco T
- Reyes, Raphael M
- Reyes, Victor Tudela
- Roberto, Maria Borja

NMI students duke it out in math contest



The 14th Annual CNMI Mathcount state competition champion Marianas Baptist Academy team with coach Ramir Trinidad hold their trophy after the competition at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Saturday.



The top 10 Mathcounts individual performers were MBA's Sung Hoon Ham, first place; Don Hee Im from MBA, second; Feng Lizama from MCS, third; Harry Jun from SIS, fourth; Manatsu Omori from MBA, fifth; Ji Hoon Choi from CCA, sixth; Laurence Jason Camacho from MCS, seventh; Jimin Ryu from SCS, eighth; John Aglubat from HJHS, ninth; and Sung Eun An from MBA, tenth.



The 14th Annual CNMI Mathcount state competition champion Marianas Baptist Academy team with coach Ramir Trinidad gather on stage during the awarding ceremony at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Saturday.



Calvary Christian Academy Team B came in second with 15.74 points and the school's Team A also placed with a score of 14.75 points.



Team members of Hopwood Jr. High School gather for a photo after the State Mathcounts finals at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Saturday.



Saipan International School's Team A came in fourth with 14.25 points.



Tinian Elementary School's team members Kyle Sandbergen, Nik-kiw Ayuyu, Alonica Auore, Yun Ha Seo, Amanda Cole and Jessabel Nededog gather for a photo with their principal Julian U. Hofschneider and Math committee chair Celina QC. Farrell.



Mount Carmel School's team members gather for a photo shortly after the state competition.

At least 90 students from both public and private schools in the CNMI competed in this year's state Mathcounts competition, held Saturday at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Dong Hee Im and Sung Hoon Ha, both from the Marianas Baptist Academy, dominated the individual countdown round and are the first two top winners of this year's state competition.

They will be joined by Saipan International School's Harry Jun and Mount Carmel School's Feng Lizama at this year's Mathcounts National Competition in Colorado on May 9, 2008.

MBA's Manatsu Omari came in fifth place, followed by Sung Eun An, MBA; Ji Hoon Choi, Calvary Christian Academy; Laurence Jason Camacho, MCS; Jimin Ryu, SIS; and John Aglubat, Hopwood Jr. High School.

The 14th Annual CNMI Mathcount was organized by EFC Engineers and Architects Corp.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Trouble in Tibet

China has been planning carefully to prevent “unharmonious” elements from sullying its pristine 2008 Olympic Games. It has cracked down on dissidents all over China, and it has even closed off access to Mount Everest to prevent disruption of the Olympic torch relay. Despite all these measures, protests have erupted across Tibet.

On Monday, the 49th anniversary of an unsuccessful uprising against China, hundreds of Tibetan monks began marching into Lhasa and were stopped by police. A second protest the next day devolved into chaos when police reportedly used tear gas to disperse the crowd, and since then laypeople have joined the movement and turned violent. The violence escalated Friday, with dozens of wounded flooding into hospitals.

Historically, China has not been terribly hesitant to use force in quelling protests, particularly protests advocating Tibetan “splittism.” In the first few days, Chinese police appeared to be restraining themselves, perhaps aware that the world was watching, but since then there have been reports of gunfire and mass arrests. Anywhere between a handful and a hundred Tibetans have been reported killed.

These are the largest protests in two decades, and they are part of a greater narrative of repression of the Tibetan people. For decades the Chinese government has afforded the “Tibet Autonomous Region” little in the way of autonomy, and it has punished monks and laypeople for devotion to their exiled religious leader, the Dalai Lama. After decades of repression, monks and other Tibetans have chosen to seize the moment. They, like others with grievances against China for its human rights policies, realize that these few months ahead of the Olympics present their best chance to gain the world’s interest.

In light of the violence of the past few days, several governments—including that of the United States—have asked China to show restraint. The Dalai Lama has issued a similar statement that also exhorted Tibetans to refrain from violence. The international community should continue to urge China to talk with the Tibetan leader, who in recent years has acknowledged Chinese rule and asked only for greater cultural independence for his people. World leaders should also urge China to follow its constitution, which requires freedom of speech and religion, as well as self-rule for ethnic minorities. It is, after all, the lack of these rights in practice that is pushing resentful Tibetans into extremism.

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What happened to our booming economy: Part II

Last of a two-part series

Continuing our discussion on what happened to our booming economy, allow me to present some of my personal observations. After reading these opinions, I hope a healthy dialogue will be started which will aid us into changing our attitude. Once we begin discussions without finger pointing, we will begin to prosper again.

In all business activities, I firmly believe that one must create business. Business does not come naturally, we must create it. However, as Thomas Edison once remarked: “When opportunity comes knocking, he wears overalls which means work and because of that we sometimes shut the door on him.”

During the '80s and '90s, we invited investors to create a tourist market and a garment industry with open arms and bushels of promises. Believing our words they flocked here bringing capital and a booming economy for us. The American flag flew loftily over our islands giving everyone a sense of security and strength. Those times have changed and we have to change also or be forced to retreat back to our homesteads while the “investors” take over the island.

The reasons why investors and tourists are backing off can be listed. Through sincere efforts we can reverse some of those reasons and turn them into advantages again. But if we keep insisting that the problems can only be solved by enticing more and more investors to our islands, we will be wrong once more. We have to look at bringing our people into the commercial arena.

An argument on everyone’s lips today is how to entice more and more investors to come to our beautiful islands. Yes, we need investors but what about investing in ourselves? Has anyone ever considered that as more investors come here and lease land and build companies and take control of our economy, we become weaker?

The net result of too much foreign investments is that we, the local people, become more and more dependent on the capriciousness of outsiders. Our ability to be independent and become masters of our destiny will be lost. We will remain as hired hands for outsiders. We will have been colonized by foreign investors. We must prevent that.

Recently I saw an advertisement in a magazine that was trying to attract investors to the country of Colombia. The text read:

“Human capital is one of the best attractions that Colombia offers as a country. The talent and capability of our people are recognized on a worldwide scale. ...Colombia offers the capability and the energy of its people as one of its big com-

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



petitive advantages.”

What a great statement! Can we say the same thing about our people? Will we ever be able to say that?

One of the most effective ways to turn our economy around, and one that rarely anyone talks about, is to seriously train our local workforce. By training I mean we must insist that young people learn professions and trades. Once they are trained we must create opportunities for them in the private sector. For the CNMI to grow it must have an educated and trained workforce.

No country has ever become strong and prosperous without an educated and trained workforce. To name only two countries, where would Japan or Singapore be if they did not have a well-educated and trained workforce? We must break the reliance we have on importing nonresident workers to do our work. We, ourselves, must work with pride and dignity.

We have currently over 8,000 people on welfare food stamps costing the United States government over \$700,000 monthly. And this number is rising monthly. Do we ever consider the sociological implications of this? Thousands of able-bodied people capable of working are not because they have no skills or opportunities to work.

Whose fault is this? It is easy to reply “theirs.” While this may be partially true, the real fault lies with the government and its agencies that do little to motivate these people to want to learn a skill. Rather we prefer foreign labor at low wages. As long as we continue to think and act like that, the CNMI will never grow.

How can the government afford to pay its employees about twice the minimum wage plus other fringe benefits and the private sector struggle on \$3.55 an hour? The unfair point here is that the private sector has to pay taxes on whatever it earns to pay those higher wages to our fortunate friends working for the government. Remember, the government doesn’t have to worry about going bankrupt, and there isn’t much competition. Have you heard the phrase: Steal from Peter to pay Paul?

See WHAT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Inflation hurts CNMI

I am sure that even if we don't watch CNN everyday, every time we pass by the gas station or get our CUC bill, we know that the price of fuel is really going through the roof. It has now skyrocketed past 100 to 110 dollars per barrel, and experts say it could hit \$120 easily.

That is why, again, it is important that we all support our politicians to do the right thing while we are still a functioning state:

'Be worthy of our trust'

I would like to take the opportunity to personally congratulate each member of the newly elected members of the 12th Rota Municipal Council. Please accept my sincere apologies for not being present the evening of the Rota Municipal Council inauguration. I was unable to attend due to a prior commitment made for the benefit of my students.

As you embark on your journey, you will find that the path to the prosperous future of our island community is unclear as you undertake to blaze a new trail in the gaming industry. It has been 119 days without a Casino Commission, without counting the election days and the days that we waited for the absentee ballots. We are still waiting.

Our community needs your leadership and ability to make decisions in the interest of all rather than the interests of few. This is a monumental task. The future of our families, our businesses, and even our children now rest in your hands.

To ease this process, I offer these few words of advice. Be mindful always of the trust the public has placed in you and impart the sanctity of that trust to prospective members of the casino com-

mission. Each prospective member of the commission should understand that their decisions must benefit the common good of the community and should at all costs remove themselves from dealings with personal interest groups. Look into the qualifications of each candidate and of each individual. Be it male or female, the commission members must be qualified on the basis of professional experience and knowledge to be best equipped to make critical decisions to benefit our community. Casino Commission members must come from the following backgrounds to ensure that Rota's collective interests are represented and served: Economics, Education, Environmental, Safety, Health, Labor/Immigration, and Culture. The commission should be composed of a member with solid background and experience from each of these respective areas.

Exercise your power as a council. Know that the scope of your governance gives you the authority to confirm or deny any appointment. Do not be made a puppet of personal interest. The people of Rota have placed their trust in you to make decisions to benefit all, not some, but all. Henry Stimson once wrote, "The only way to

Bring in competent people to stop the wastage at CUC, and create a roadmap for upgrading our generators. Nothing is more important than this, because without it we are, in effect, dumping oil into a bottomless pit when it is as expensive as it has ever been in the history of mankind.

Sadly, its not like the CNMI produces a single drop of this black gold. Even worse, we are 2,000 miles away from the closest refinery, and it costs a hell of a lot to bring that black stuff here. Can you see why this situation has all of us literally between the devil and the deep blue sea?

So please, only your letters, calls, and voices can give our friends

in government the courage to take swift and decisive action to do something soon. Only if our friends in media focus on the CUC day in and day out will people be spurred into action. If no one cares, and we just brush this under the rug, even our hotels and tourist attractions will buckle under the cost of power, and we will all be left with an economy in tatters.

Why do we have to condemn ourselves to this fate? We are all in this boat together, for better or for worse.

Ricky Delgado
President, PTI

make a man trustworthy is to trust him." We have placed our faith in you and trust that you will safeguard our community. Congratulations once again and God bless.

Joey Quitugua
Chenchun, Rota

What about us?

This is my response to Henry Chan from San Vicente. First of all, I do THINK before I write, and trust me, I have thought it out very well. And I did not mean to put down the governor, but just question his promises. Didn't he say during his campaign that he promises to help the students of the CNMI? Doesn't that include us? I know that it is not his fault that this happened to NMC; all I am asking is a little help. There are many foreigners that come to school here. What would happen if it shuts down? The locals of the island are leaving little by little every month. What does tourism have to do with this? Our island is losing its culture by the hour. He comments on why I questioned funding PSS, and he said to provide a good education for the students. So what are we? Are we not included on the island? Or are we just another organization that is losing its business slowly?

Mary Grace Santos
Chalan Kiya, Saipan

Different systems

Here's an interesting note to those that are interested in the federalization issue. There are six major insular areas of the USA: The U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the CNMI, and Washington, DC. And Puerto Rico. There are many smaller insular areas: Johnston Atoll, Midway Atoll, Wake Island, to name a few. The Canal Zone of Panama used to be another.

I've worked and lived in the U.S. Virgin islands, Guam, the CNMI, and Midway Atoll. I've been to the Canal Zone, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. Many native Hawaiians have a saying that goes like this: "Last state on, first state off." EACH one of the major and minor areas has a different immigration and wage policy—the USA is not as simple as the 50 states, nor is its immigration policy black and white. Just ask a Cuban who walks ashore off a smuggler's boat in Florida hand in hand with, say a Panamanian. Boni Sagana asks: How can the United States justify having different standards? Well, Boni, democracy is the will of the citizens, and it is the justification. Wanna complain about that system?

William 'Bamboo' McCue
Wellington, FL

Speaking of truths

I find it extremely amusing and at times a joke that most of my detractors believe that I have a ghostwriter. The one thing that I am proud of with all my writings is that all of my detractors are actually listening, especially since I am just an ordinary person.

Mr. Don Cohen, I got both you and Dekada president Bonnie Sagana listening, but both of you either forgot your reading glasses or the two of you just became so belligerent when you read my real writing, especially when you got to the good part and I will reiterate: "Sagana is blatantly contradicting his own quest for fair labor and immigration reforms. The fact remains that without further studies and research, their aggression had led to the repatriation of innocent nonresident guest workers."

Since the two of you refuse to realize the truth, let me break it down. The statement I made basically means that because of Mr. Sagana's aggressiveness in demanding for a green card due to his tremendous contributions to our community, this has led to the repatriation of innocent nonresident guest workers. I challenge Mr. Sagana to provide us a copy of your signed employment contract agreement and point out to us where it indicates that because of your many contributions, a green card or blue pass is forthcoming. I believe the NLRB is looking for you Mr. Sagana to give you your denial letter. I hope that I've clarified it clearly to the two of you.

To Mr. Cohen, as for our Taotao Tano gang, they will never go to jail as you suggested for we live in a Democratic society and the First Amendment is very much applicable in our homeland,

thanks to the American way! Speaking of the American way, why are we second-class American citizens? Why are we not enjoying the same fundamental freedoms of a higher standard of living? Is the American way discriminating against the Taotao Tano of the Commonwealth? Why is it that we don't vote for any U.S. Presidential candidate but we allow you to vote here, Mr. Cohen, so is this really the American way?

There is a reason why we have a Covenant agreement in political union with the United States and it's called mutual trust, Mr. Cohen.

As for the feds, they are here, always have been but I think you're confused as to which feds are coming. Again, let me help you with this one; it's called federal immigration. By the way, has any of you read the news lately about our neighboring island of Guam, home of Congresswoman Madaleine Bordallo. Human smuggling cases are surfacing left and right and guest what? It's foreigners that are doing the crime! The worst thing about it is that they are under a federally controlled immigration.

For those local people you were referring to as being fed up with Taotao Tano, those are the corrupt and oppressive individuals that are running scared. Taotao Tano enjoys opening cans of worms and for each can of worm we pry open the plot thickens and a corrupter's name appears.

Gregorio Cruz
President, Taotao Tano

WHAT

From Page 10

Is it any wonder that almost everybody fights and begs to get employed by the welfare state sponsored by the government? A government job is almost a cradle-to-death social state. The unfortunate ones must resign themselves to finding low-paying unskilled jobs in the private sector. Is it any wonder why so many people opt to apply for food stamps when the value of the stamps they receive are almost what they would earn working?

I hasten to add that this is not a criticism of the people in government jobs. It is a discussion on what must be corrected if the CNMI is ever to regain prosperity by improving its workforce. Compare 5,000 government workers versus 8,000 food stamp recipients plus the unemployed. What does that say about the economic health of our nation?

Why do returning college educated locals quickly turn around and head back to the States to find a job? Or why are many of our skilled and trained people rushing off to Guam for jobs? Yet we complain that we lack educated people. Are we doing anything to motivate them to work in the private

sector at decent wages at least comparable to government wages? Where are our priorities?

I don't profess to know the answers but I see and understand what happens when the youth of our country become discouraged and drop out not only from school but from being productive citizens. Where is the motivation that should be given to them? Where are the incentives for anyone to improve himself?

Our biggest enemy is not Federalization, but our backward and narrow thinking is. This is NOT the CNMI of the Trust Territory days! This is a new age and our youth are desperate for a better life. We, the elders, must provide that avenue to them. Let us stop walking ahead with our eyes glued backward.

Lee Kuan Yee, the former prime minister of Singapore, once stated in a speech: "Singapore's success was due to the ability and industry of our young people, willing and eager to learn, prepared to work hard and pay their way in the world, finding pride and pleasure in constructive endeavor. ...There is no law in nature which provides that life will get better next year. We have to work hard to make it better."

I throw this challenge out to all our Legislators and Administrators:

MOTIVATE OUR PEOPLE TO BECOME EDUCATED AND

TRAINED. SHOW THEM THE ROAD TO BECOMING INDUSTRIOUS. RESTORE PRIDE AND DIGNITY IN WORK.

Gentlemen, should you do less than this you will have failed in your leadership. It is your duty to *motivate* us to prosperity and happiness.

Please don't cry "no money to do so." Motivation and money are not the same. If you truly are a statesman, you will find a way to help us. A nation of educated and industrious people will overcome any adversity. You must be the torch to guide us through this moment of despair.

Let me close with a prayer written by Wayne Dosick as inspired by St. Francis of Assisi:






Prayer For The World

Where there is hatred, may I bring love,
Where there is pain, may I bring healing,
Where there is darkness, may I bring light,
Where there is despair, may I bring hope,
Where there is discord, may I bring harmony,
Where there is strife, may I bring peace,
Make this a better world and begin with me!

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°	▲81° ▼73°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲84 ▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼77
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88 ▼74
Majuro	Cloudy	▲86 ▼79

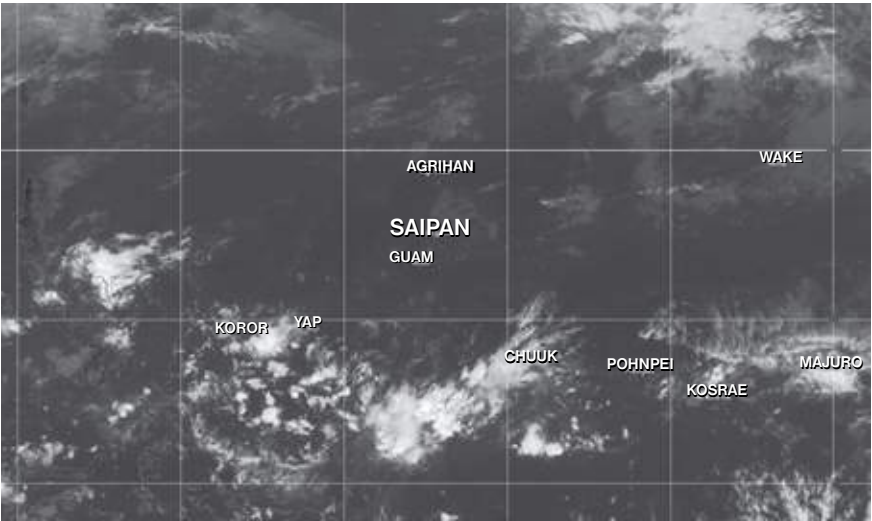
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 60
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 66 ▼ 43
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 68
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 71
London	Mostly Sunny	▲ 51 ▼ 34
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 50
Manila	Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 75
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲ 99 ▼ 75
Miami	Sunny	▲ 81 ▼ 68
New York	Sunny	▲ 46 ▼ 35
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 56 ▼ 39
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 36
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 38
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲ 62 ▼ 47
Salem	Rain	▲ 51 ▼ 40
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 49
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲ 59 ▼ 34
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 43
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 53 ▼ 35

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
05:48AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:54AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
03:26AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:07PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line runs southwestward from 21N180 to end just southwest of Guam at 13N143E west of 159E. Cloudiness and isolated showers are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of the shear line. East of 159E. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are situated along the shear line and northwestward to beyond 25N. Trade-wind convergence is combining with upper-level divergence to generate scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Palau between 3N and 10N from 130E to 140E. Yap lies on the northeastern edge of this area. A surface trough extends northward from 2N147E to 8N147E. Trade-winds converging near the trough are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 150 miles of a line from 2N142E to 7N151E. Trade-wind convergence and upper-level divergence are also combining to produce scattered showers between Pohnpei and Majuro within 90 miles of a line from 6N160E to 6N171E. Scattered showers cover an area over and northeast of Tarawa within 100 miles of a line from 1N172E to 3N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:23AM	6:28PM
Tuesday	6:23AM	6:28PM
Wednesday	6:22AM	6:28PM
Thursday	6:21AM	6:28PM
Thursday	6:21AM	6:28PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	02:31PM	02:57AM
Tuesday	03:28PM	03:45AM
Wednesday	04:22PM	04:27AM
Thursday	05:13PM	05:06AM
Thursday	06:03PM	05:42AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 16, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:35am 3:05pm Daily NW 077 6:15pm 1:10am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:50pm 9:35pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
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Business

Gas, diesel rocket to record highs

NEW YORK (AP) — The rally in energy prices gained momentum Friday, with retail gas prices rising further into record territory and diesel and heating oil futures setting records of their own amid concerns about strong global demand and tight supplies.

Crude oil prices fell modestly as a sharp downturn in the stock market and worries about the economy prompted some profit-taking. But with

the Federal Reserve expected to cut interest rates again next week, analysts expect the dollar to weaken further, propelling crude to new records.

At the pump, gas prices set records for the fourth straight day, rising 1.3 cents Friday to a national average price of \$3.28 a gallon, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Average prices are nearing \$4 in some parts of Hawaii.

Diesel, meanwhile, rose 2.9 cents to a new record national average of \$3.938 a gallon. Heating oil, a fellow distillate and close cousin of diesel, jumped to new records on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Diesel, used by trucks, trains and ships, is used to move the vast majority of the world's goods. While the U.S. economy appears to be slowing, the global economy continues to grow.

"Demand for diesel worldwide has been incredible," said Phil Flynn, an analyst at Alaron Trading Corp., in Chicago.

April heating oil futures rose 2.17 cents to settle at a record \$3.1465 a gallon after earlier setting a new trading record of

\$3.222 a gallon.

Oil prices fell for a change Friday, following stocks lower after Bear Stearns Cos. acknowledged serious financial problems, and the Federal Reserve and JPMorgan Chase & Co. bailed the investment bank out.

Light, sweet crude for April delivery fell 12 cents to settle at \$110.21 on the Nymex Friday after rising earlier to within pennies of its latest trading record of \$111, set Thursday. It was oil's first decline in a week. Futures rose \$5.60, or 5 percent, this week.

More rate cuts from Fed expected Tuesday

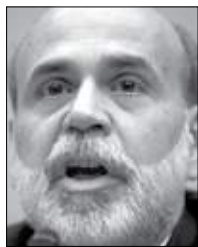
WASHINGTON (AP) — Desperate to aid an economy in crisis, the Federal Reserve is ready to deliver yet another big interest rate cut.

How big? One-half of a percentage point, some economists say. Investors and others hope for even more, a three-quarters cut or perhaps a full point, given the turmoil on Wall Street. It will be a close call, Fed watchers say.

The speculation ends Tuesday afternoon after Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and central bank policymakers have met.

Whatever the decision, for a growing number of analysts, one more rate reduction will not be the lifeline that pulls the country back from the brink of the first recession since 2001.

Experts in this camp believe



Bernanke

the economy is shrinking now because of the fallout from the housing and credit debacles. Businesses are shedding jobs, Wall Street is convulsing, energy prices are skyrocketing and people are reluctant to spend.

Yet these economists say lower interest rates should help cushion the blows of a recession.

"Many consumers, businesses and investors are simply running scared right now," economic consultant Carl Tannenbaum said.

The rate-cutting began in September with the goal of shoring up the economy and reviving spending. The Fed's key rate has fallen from 5.25 percent to 3 percent. The pace picked up measurably in January when, during an eight-day period, the Fed slashed the rate by 1.25

percentage points. It was the biggest one-month reduction in a quarter-century.

In response, commercial banks have lowered prime lending rates by corresponding amounts. The prime rate, now at a nearly three-year low of 6 percent, applies to certain credit cards, home equity lines of credit and other loans. A cut ordered by the Fed on Tuesday would further drop the prime rate.

Even with the Fed's aggressive moves, economic and financial conditions keep deteriorating.

The Fed in recent days has taken extraordinary steps to help banks and Wall Street investment firms survive the stresses of the credit crisis. Financial institutions have racked up multibillion-dollar losses when mortgage-backed investments soured with the collapse of the housing market.

Bush: Avoid overcorrecting economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush on Saturday said the government must guard against going too far in trying to fix the troubled economy, cautioning that "one of the worst things you can do is overcorrect." Democrats said Bush was relying on inaction to solve the problem.

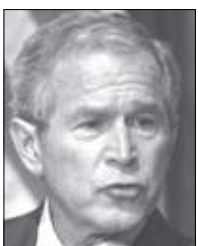
Bush, in his weekly radio address, said the recently passed program of tax rebates for families and businesses should begin to lift the economy in the second quarter of the year and have

an even stronger impact in the third quarter. But he urged caution about doing more, particularly about the crisis in the housing market where prices are tumbling and home foreclosures have soared to an all-time high.

"If we were to pursue some of the sweeping government solutions that we hear about in Washington, we would make a complicated problem even

worse - and end up hurting far more homeowners than we help," the president said.

The economy has surpassed the Iraq war as the No. 1 concern among voters in this presidential election year amid big job losses, soaring fuel costs, a credit crisis and turmoil on Wall Street.



Bush

"In the long run, we can be confident that our economy will continue to grow, but in the short run, it is clear that growth has slowed," Bush said. He was spending the weekend at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland's Catoctin Mountains after delivering a speech in New York about the economy and helping raise \$1.4 million for the national Republican Party.

Democrats said they would try to strengthen the economy with measures dealing with housing, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

"The president continues to convince himself that inaction

is the cure-all for the economic problems hurting hardworking Americans," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said in a written statement. "But Democrats know that wait-and-see is not a responsible strategy for an economy that is teetering on the brink of recession."

"Wages and home values are down," Reid said, "but prices for everything from health care to tuition to energy are up. Just this week, oil and gas prices reached record highs while the value of the dollar reached historic lows. I hope the president, who has been slow to acknowledge this problem, joins us in recognizing how urgently we need a solution."

Bush said he opposed several measures pending on Capitol Hill to deal with the housing crisis. They included proposals to allocate \$400 billion to purchase foreclosed-upon and now-abandoned homes, to change the bankruptcy code to allow judges to adjust mortgage rates and to artificially prop up home prices.



New gas pipelines sit in a field near Illiopolis, Ill., Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2008. The pipe will be used in the construction of the 1,678-mile Rockies Express pipeline from Meeker, Colo., to Clarington, Ohio.

New pipelines will even out gas prices

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — In the Rocky Mountains, the energy crisis has mostly been a crisis for natural gas producers and a boon for consumers.

Last fall, gas suppliers competing to stuff excess production into constrained pipeline systems drove spot prices to a laughably low 5 cents for 1,000 cubic feet of gas. That's the equivalent of a nickel to heat a typical house for two winter days.

"A lot of producers didn't think it was funny," said Porter Bennett, president and chief executive for energy analysts Bentek Energy LLC. "They were actually paying somebody to take it." Storing gas or turning off wells isn't always practical.

Yet for consumers across much of the West, where natural gas historically has been cheap and plentiful, the party is almost over, and it may have ended with that final discount splurge. The first of a handful of major new pipelines originating in the Rocky Mountains is starting to siphon away the bounty, promising lower prices for other regions.

"If you don't care about the rest of the country, it's not such a good thing," Bennett said in Golden, Colo. "We kind of get screwed in the deal."

Gas suppliers say this equation works both ways - if they can't maximize profits, fewer companies would bother drilling for natural gas in the West, which could lead to shortages and higher prices. They say gas production will continue

to soar, keeping prices around here under control.

The new pipelines will take the Rockies' landlocked supply to major markets in California, the Phoenix area and flood the Midwest, where it can free up other supplies for the gas-starved Northeast.

The so-called big dog of these

Is Wall Street close to a bottom?

NEW YORK (AP) — Investors nursing whiplash symptoms after watching the market's recent wild swings may find that Wall Street will deliver some relief in the coming weeks.

While volatility isn't going to disappear overnight, some experts suggest the market may be near the beginning of a recovery.

"I think we've seen a bottom," said Alfred E. Goldman, chief market strategist at A.G. Edwards & Sons Inc., a division of Wachovia. "It's probably not 'the' bottom," he said, "I think it would be presumptuous to call it 'the' bottom."

Some might consider any positive view contrarian, especially given the shock caused Friday by news of a bailout needed by investment bank Bear Stearns Cos., but Goldman said he thinks long-term investors have reason to start expecting some relief ahead.

"I think what we have is a Bear Stearns crisis, not a stock market crisis," he said of the Wall Street bank's liquidity problems, which stemmed from investors, customers and lend-

ers withdrawing their business and pulling back on credit lines. "Right now, I'm not aware of any other major brokerage firms or banks that have this type of solvency problem."

Still, Goldman said, such news can generate further negative feelings. "The level of pessimism, the calls I'm getting, are it's like the end of the Western world."

"The market is very nervous."

Those nerves were reflected in the market's moves this past week, as stocks on Monday sold off for the third straight day, then bounced back Tuesday after the Federal Reserve said it would put up cash to help loosen tight credit market. After a modest decline Wednesday, it got a lift Thursday from Standard & Poor's prediction of an end to massive write-downs of mortgage-backed securities, then dropped sharply Friday following Bear Stearns' revelation.

For the year, the Dow Jones industrial average is down about 10 percent, and off nearly 16 percent since its October high.

Nation

Crane crushes NYC buildings; 4 killed

NEW YORK (AP)—A crane rising 19 stories alongside a skyscraper under construction toppled like a tree across a city block Saturday, crashing into apartment buildings, killing four people and setting off a scramble for survivors.

The crane split into pieces as it fell, pulverizing a four-story townhouse and demolishing parts of three other buildings. One man was pulled from the townhouse 3 1/2 hours after the building was crushed.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said at least four people, believed to be construction workers, have died and at least 10 people were injured in one of the city's worst construction accidents in recent memory.

The collapse devastated the affluent block on Manhattan's East Side: Cars were overturned and crushed. A huge dust cloud rose over the neighborhood. Rubble was piled several stories high.

"It's a horrible situation, very gory. There's blood in the street," said Lt. Gov. David Paterson, who takes over as governor for disgraced Eliot Spitzer on Monday.

An intensive rescue operation was under way to find anyone possibly trapped in the rubble on 51st Street near 2nd Avenue.

Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta said the rescue was "a painstaking hand operation, as we try to remove the rubble so we don't cause further collapse or injure anyone who may still be in that building." He said the operation would continue all night if necessary, including the use of search dogs and thermal-imaging and listening devices.



Rescue workers work at the scene of a crushed building on 50th Street near Second Avenue Saturday, March 15, 2008 in New York.

John LaGreco, who owned a tavern called Fubar that was closed when the brownstone was crushed, said his employee, Juan Perez, was the man pulled from the rubble. He said Perez suffered a broken leg. All of his employees were accounted for.

"Our bar is done," he said. "The crane crashed the whole building. If I wasn't watching a Yankees game, I would've come to work early and gotten killed."

About 19 of the planned 43-story condominium had been erected, and the crane was scheduled to be extended Saturday so workers could start work on a fresh story, said an owner of the company that manages the construction site.

A piece of steel fell and sheared off one of the ties holding it to the building, causing it to detach and topple, said Stephen Kaplan, an owner of the Reliance Construction Group.

"It was an absolute freak accident," Kaplan said. "All the piece of steel had to do was fall slightly left or right, and nothing would have happened."

Kaplan said the company had subcontracted the work to different companies and was not in charge of the crane. Phone messages and an e-mail left for the crane's owner, New York Crane & Equipment Corp., were not immediately returned.

Kaplan wasn't sure whether any workers at the site were among those killed.

James Kennelly, the lead partner at East 51st Development Company, which owns the property, issued a written statement expressing the group's dismay over the accident.

"There are no words to describe the level of devastation we feel today as a result of this tragic event," he said, extending prayers to the families of the dead and injured.

Neighborhood residents said they had complained to the city several times about the construction at the site, saying crews worked illegal hours and the building was going up too fast.

Ga. storms kill two after Atlanta twister

ATLANTA (AP)—Tens of thousands of basketball fans at two arenas were perfectly safe, officials insisted Saturday, even though the crowds apparently weren't warned about an approaching tornado - one that would ravage skyscrapers and injure dozens.

About 18,000 people were watching the Southeastern Conference men's tournament Friday night at the Georgia Dome when its fabric roof began rippling, the catwalks above the court started swaying and chunks of insulation rained onto the players.

The National Weather Service issued a tornado warning about eight minutes before the twister hit, but it wasn't clear when or if that alert was passed on to fans, said Katy Pando, a dome spokeswoman. Fans claimed they never heard or saw one.

Another 16,000 fans watching an NBA game at Philips Arena, in the same complex as the dome, weren't told of the weather, either. The arena apparently sustained little damage, Atlanta Hawks spokesman Arthur Triche said.

The tornado, with wind up to 130 mph, cut a 6-mile path through downtown Atlanta, smashing hundreds of windows in and around the CNN Center, blowing furniture and luggage out of hotel rooms and crumbling part of an apartment building. At least 27 people were hurt, though no injuries was believed to be life-threatening, and no injuries were reported at the arenas.

"I thought it was a tornado or a terrorist attack," said Mississippi State guard Ben Hansbrough, whose team beat Alabama 69-67 after an hourlong delay under a roof with at least two visible tears.

"Ironically, the guy behind me got a phone call saying there was a tornado warning," fan Lisa Lynn said. "And in two seconds, we heard the noise and things started to shake. It was creepy."

Elsewhere in Georgia on Saturday, storms killed one person in Polk County and another in Floyd County, both near the Alabama line, emergency management officials said. Storms in South Carolina and Alabama left thousands without electricity.

Obama expands delegate lead over Clinton

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Democrat Barack Obama expanded his fragile lead in delegates over rival Hillary Rodham Clinton on Saturday, picking up nine delegates as Iowa activists took the next step in picking delegates to the national convention.

More than half the 14 delegates allocated to John Edwards on the basis of caucus night projections switched Saturday to Obama.

Iowa Democratic Party officials said that with all of the dele-

gates picked, Obama claimed 52 percent of the delegates elected at county conventions on Saturday, compared with 32 percent for Clinton. Some of the delegates picked at Saturday's conventions were sticking with Edwards, even though he's dropped from the race since Iowa held its caucuses in January.



Obama

Democratic Party projections said the results mean Obama increased by nine the number of delegates he collects from the state, getting a total of 25 compared with 14 for Clinton and six for Edwards.

Twelve automatic delegates bring the state's total to 57. Obama has been endorsed by four of those and

Clinton three, with the remainder uncommitted.

Also Saturday, California's Democratic Party finalized the delegate counts from its Feb. 5 primary. Clinton picked up two more pledged delegates, raising her state total to 204; Obama gained five, raising his figure to 166.

Counting Saturday's new figures from Iowa and California, an Associated Press delegate tally showed Obama with 1,617 delegates and Clinton with 1,498.

Poll: More see US government as secretive

Nearly nine in 10 Americans say it's important to know presidential and congressional candidates' positions on open government, but three out of four view the federal government as secretive, according to a survey released Sunday.

Scripps Howard News Service and Ohio University conducted the survey in conjunction with Sunshine Week, a nationwide effort by media or-

ganizations to draw attention to the public's right to know.

The survey found a significant increase in the percentage of Americans who believe the federal government is very or somewhat secretive, from 62 percent of those surveyed in 2006 to 74 percent in 2008. That's a sobering jump, said David Westphal, Washington editor for McClatchy News-

papers and co-chairman of the American Society of Newspaper Editors' Freedom of Information Committee.

"On the other hand, it's gratifying to see that almost 90 percent believe a candidate's position on open government is an important issue when they make their Election Day choices," he said.

The survey of 1,012 adults was commissioned by ASNE as

part of a yearlong campaign to have candidates for all levels of office discuss their positions on government access issues.

Half of the poll respondents said government at the state level is secretive, while 44 percent viewed it as open. Those who see local government as secretive increased from 34 percent in 2007 to 40 percent in the 2008 survey. (AP)

Pilot dead in F-16 crash in Ariz.

PARKER, Ariz. (AP)—The pilot of an F-16C fighter jet that crashed in a rugged area of western Arizona was killed when his plane went down, Air Force officials confirmed Saturday.

The student pilot was practicing air-to-air combat with another F-16 from Luke Air Force Base about noon Friday when his plane crashed, base spokeswoman Mary Jo May said.

Aircraft from the Air Force, Marines, Civil Air Patrol and

Arizona Department of Public Safety spent hours trying to find the wreckage, which was spotted late Friday in a remote area about 80 miles northwest of Phoenix.

Rescuers could only reach the site by helicopter and arrived at daybreak Saturday, May said. They found the pilot's parachute and some of his gear about 150 feet from an impact crater. It took several hours for the Air Force to confirm that he had died in the crash.

Asia

Chinese security forces swarm Tibet

BEIJING (AP) -- Soldiers on foot and in armored carriers swarmed Tibet's capital Saturday, enforcing a strict curfew a day after protesters burned shops and cars to vent their anger against Chinese rule. In another western city, police

clashed with hundreds of Buddhist monks leading a sympathy demonstration.

The violence erupted just two weeks before China's Summer Olympic celebrations kick off with the start of the torch relay, which passes through

Tibet. China is gambling that its crackdown will not draw an international outcry over human rights violations that could lead to boycotts of the Olympics.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called on China "to exercise restraint in dealing with

these protests," while the State Department issued a travel alert for Americans in the region. Her statement also called for China to release monks and others jailed for protesting.

The latest unrest began Monday on the anniversary of a 1959 uprising against Chinese rule. Tibet was effectively independent for decades before communist troops entered in 1950.

Initially, the protests were led by Buddhist monks demanding the release of other detained monks. Their demands spiraled to include cries for Tibet's independence and turned violent Friday when police tried to stop a group of protesting monks. Pent-up grievances against Chinese rule came to the fore, as Tibetans directed their anger against Chinese and their shops,

hotels and other businesses.

It was the fiercest challenge to Beijing's authority in nearly two decades.

China's official Xinhua News Agency reported at least 10 civilians were burned to death on Friday. The Dalai Lama's exiled Tibetan government in India said Chinese authorities killed at least 30 Tibetans and possibly as many as 100. The figures could not be independently verified.

In the Tibetan capital Lhasa on Saturday, police manned checkpoints and armored personnel carriers rattled on mostly empty streets as people stayed indoors under a curfew, witnesses said. The show of force imposed a tense quiet.

Several witnesses reported hearing occasional bursts of gunfire. One Westerner who

went to a rooftop in Lhasa's old city said he saw troops with automatic rifles moving through the streets firing, though did not see anyone shot.

Foreign tourists in Lhasa were told to leave, a hotel manager and travel guide said, with the guide adding that some were turned back at the airport.

"There are military blockades blocking off whole portions of the city, and the entire city is basically closed down," said a 23-year-old Canadian student who arrived in Lhasa on Saturday and who was making plans to leave. "All the restaurants are closed, all the hotels are closed."

Even as Chinese forces appeared to reassert control in Lhasa, a second day of sympathy protests erupted in an important Tibetan town 750 miles away.

My Lai marks massacre's 40th anniversary

MY LAI, Vietnam (AP)—Lawrence Colburn returned to My Lai on Saturday and found hope at the site of one of the most notorious chapters of the Vietnam War.

On the 40th anniversary of the massacre of up to 500 unarmed Vietnamese villagers, the former helicopter gunner was reunited with a young man he rescued from rampaging U.S. soldiers.

On March 16, 1968, Colburn found 8-year-old Do Ba clinging to his mother's corpse in a ditch full of blood and the bod-

ies of more than 100 people who had been mowed down. Nearly all the victims were unarmed women, children and elderly.

"Today I see Do Ba with a wife and a baby," said Colburn, a member of a three-man Army helicopter crew that landed in the midst of the massacre and intervened to stop the killing. "He's transformed himself from being a broken, lonely man. Now he's complete. He's a perfect example of the human spirit, of the will to survive."

Colburn, 58, now runs a medi-

cal supplies business north of Atlanta. He, Ba and hundreds of others are gathering this weekend to remember the My Lai massacre, a grim milestone that shocked Americans and undermined support for the war, which ended in 1975 with the fall of Saigon to communist troops.

Buddhist monks in saffron robes led the mourners in prayer Saturday outside a museum that has been erected to remember the dead. An official memorial program will be held on Sunday.

Among those coming to pray was Ha Thi Quy, 83, a My Lai survivor who suffers from anger and depression four decades after the slaughter. Soldiers from the Army's Charlie Company shot her in the leg and killed her mother, her 16-year-old daughter and her 6-year-old son.

Her husband later died of injuries from the massacre and another son had to have an arm and a leg amputated after suffering gunshot wounds that day.

Quy only survived because she was shielded beneath a pile of dead bodies.

"The American government should stop waging wars like they waged in Vietnam," Quy said. "My children were innocent, but those American soldiers killed them."



Former US Army officer Lawrence Colburn, 58, right, of Canton, Ga., who rescued Vietnamese villagers during the massacre, shares a laugh with Vietnamese women during the 40 year anniversary of My Lai Massacre in My Lai in Quang Ngai Province, central part of Vietnam, Saturday, March 15, 2008.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Grenade attack in India kills 3, wounds

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Police say a grenade attack has killed three people and wounded another 50 at a festival in India's troubled northeast. Police blame the blast early Sunday on a separatist group called the United Liberation Front of Asom. The group has been fighting for an independent homeland in the area for nearly two decades. A district official says nearly 15,000 people were participating in a cultural festival when the attack occurred.

Car bomb kills 2 in Thailand

PATTANI, Thailand (AP)—A bomb exploded in the parking lot of an upscale hotel in Thailand's restive south on Saturday, killing two people and wounding 14 others, police said. The blast shattered windows as high as the eighth floor of the C.S. Pattani Hotel, the largest hotel in Thailand's southern provinces, where a Muslim insurgency has been under way since 2004. The bomb was hidden in a fire extinguisher inside a parked car near the hotel's entrance, said Col. Tawatchai Samutsakorn. Police found and defused a second bomb in a hotel restroom, he said. No one immediately claimed responsibility, and authorities did not speculate on who was behind the attack.

Quake hits off western Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A strong earthquake struck nearly 200 miles off western Indonesia late Saturday. There were no reports of injuries or damage. The magnitude 6.2 quake was centered 190 miles southwest of Banda Aceh on the island of Sumatra, the U.S. Geological Survey said. Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago, is prone to seismic upheavals due to its location on the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanos and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin.

Pakistan's gov't raises fuel prices

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's interim government raised fuel prices about 7 percent Saturday, a decision likely to spark public anger at a time when food prices are also rising. The hike by the Pakistan Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority came as world oil prices continue to hover at record highs. It was the second hike in state fuel prices in Pakistan in as many weeks. Before March 1, prices remained level for about 13 months. A.R. Kamal, an independent economist, predicted that the fuel price increase would cause inflation, but said the rise could help the new Pakistani government cut deficits.



Chinese riot police stands guard on a bridge heading to historic Labrang Monastery in Xiahe, Gansu Province, China, Saturday, March 15, 2008.

Blast kills 1 at restaurant in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A bomb exploded in the back garden of an Italian restaurant crowded with foreigners in Pakistan's capital on Saturday, killing a Turkish woman and wounding 11 others including five Americans.

Personnel from the U.S. and British embassies were among the wounded after what appeared to be the first attack targeting foreigners in a recent wave of violence in Pakistan.

A list of victims was posted in the reception area at Islamabad's Poly Clinic. Five U.S. citizens were listed as undergoing surgery. One Japanese citizen, one Canadian, one Briton and three Pakistanis also were wounded. Foreigners crowded around the list; some burst into tears.

Zahid Janjua, a student at

the city's International Islamic University, was dining nearby at another restaurant and helped bring victims to waiting ambulances, staining his clothes with their blood.

"It was chaos. Broken tables and chairs lay scattered across the lawn. There were eight or nine people lying injured and crying for help," he said.

Officials said the bomb was planted in the garden or thrown over a nearby wall of the Luna Caprese restaurant, a popular socializing spot for expatriates in Islamabad.

Pakistani Interior Secretary Kamal Shah confirmed the Turkish woman's death. A police officer at the scene initially told reporters that two people had died, but Shah and the city police chief later said there was only one fatality.

The blast rang out across downtown Islamabad around 8:45 p.m. local time. Fire engines and police raced to the scene, which was littered with blood and debris. A man's shoe lay in a pile of rubble.

Local television footage showed a wounded man, looking dazed, rushing past the camera with blood streaming from his forehead.

After inspecting the destruction, city police chief Shahid Nadeem Baloch told reporters that 11 people were wounded: eight foreigners and three Pakistanis - a couple dining and a waiter. He gave no further details of their identities.

"There is a crater in the ground which suggests that it was a planted bomb, but we need to investigate further," Baloch said.

World

US draws portrait of Iraq bombers



Iraqi policeman takes off blindfold of Walid Mohammed, from Tunisia, while Bassem Faleh from Saudi Arabia looks on in Basra Iraq in this Nov. 26, 2004, file photo. The two were captured by Iraqi police after they fled Fallujah.

By PATRICK QUINN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BAGHDAD (AP)—The suicide bombers who have killed 10,000 people in Iraq, including hundreds of American troops, usually are alienated young men from large families who are desperate to stand out from the crowd and make their mark, according to a U.S. military study.

As long suspected, most come from outside Iraq. Saudi Arabia, home of most of the 9/11 hijackers, is the single largest source. And the pipeline is continually replenished by al-Qaida in Iraq's recruiters.

The study, obtained by The Associated Press, profiles the

suicide bombers and their support system based in part on interrogations of 48 foreign fighters who were captured or surrendered. The U.S. command is trying to understand the system, including al-Qaida in Iraq's recruiting, training and transportation network, so it can be disrupted before the bombers strike.

According to the summary, interrogators concluded that most foreign fighters are Sunni Muslim men from 18 to 30, with the mean age of 22. They are almost always single males with no children, and tend to be students or hold blue-collar jobs ranging from taxi drivers to construction and retail sales.

The summary went on to de-

scribe the majority of the fighters as having six to 12 years of schooling, with very few having gone to college. Most come from families in the poor or middle classes and have six to eight siblings.

"In these large family groups, individuals seek ways to 'make their mark,' to set them apart. In many ways, entering jihad gives sons a way to show themselves unique in a large family," the summary said.

According to the National Counterterrorism Center in Washington, 949 suicide bombers killed 10,119 people and wounded 22,995 from the beginning of 2004 until now. Data compiled by the AP through its

own reporting found that between April 28, 2005 and March 13, 2008 there were 708 incidents involving suicide bombings, with a total of 14,633 Iraqis wounded and 7,098 killed.

According to data tracked by author Mohammed Hafez in his own separate study, "Suicide Bombers in Iraq," there have been 1,800 suicide attacks worldwide since the phenomenon began in the early 1980s. Of those, more than half have taken place in Iraq.

"There have been more than 900 suicide attacks in Iraq ... certainly the phenomenon is growing," said Hafez, a political science professor at the University of Missouri, Kansas City.

Albania blast kills at least five, injures 243

TIRANA, Albania (AP)—A massive explosion at an Albanian army ammunition dump on Saturday killed at least five people and injured 243, including many children, authorities said.

Footage from Albanian television showed a massive ball of fire shooting up from the site in Gerdec village, about six miles north of the capital, Tirana.

Shrapnel and shell fragments rained down on homes and vehicles, and houses more than a mile away were damaged by the blast. The initial blast set off a series of explosions, and ammunition continued to detonate into the night.

The blast was heard as far away as the Macedonian capital of Skopje, about 120 miles away, and it prompted a brief suspension of flights at Tirana's nearby international airport, which was slightly damaged.

Prime Minister Sali Berisha,

who described the blasts as an accident, said during a late-night news conference that the death toll stood at five, but that the number was likely to increase.

He said 243 people had been registered as injured. By Saturday night, 142 remained hospitalized, and 12 of them were in serious condition.

Health Minister Nard Ndoeka said earlier that many of the injured were children.

Authorities evacuated 4,000 people from three villages and the surrounding area using armored personnel carriers, Berisha said.

The continuous explosions hampered rescue efforts, though, and authorities were unable to get to the site of the main blast for hours. The explosion also damaged a major electricity transmission point, leaving the area without power, authorities said.

Conservative split in Iran vote

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Conservative opponents of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad made a strong showing in Iran's parliamentary elections, according to partial results Saturday. The split could mean frictions between the president and former supporters disillusioned by his fiery, populist rule.

Reformists, meanwhile, claimed to have made better than expected gains even though most of their candidates were thrown out of the race by Iran's clerical leadership.

If reformists succeed in expanding the largely muted bloc of around 40 lawmakers they had in the outgoing parliament, it would be a blow to hard-line attempts to bury the movement, which calls for reducing the

power of clerics and opening up to the West.

The Interior Ministry put turnout in Friday's vote at around 60 percent - up from 51 percent in 2004 parliament elections. Grouping all conservative factions together, it said they had won just over 70 percent of the seats so far with most of the nation counted, without giving an exact number.

Iran's leaders depicted the rise as a show of confidence in the Islamic republic and of defiance against criticism of the vote by the United States, which said Iran's clerical leaders "cooked the vote."

"The history-making Iranian nation protected its identity, ideals and all its rights, especially the right to exploit nuclear energy," Ahmadinejad said.

Sweden's sex law: Get the customer

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)—Selling sex isn't illegal in Sweden, but buying is—a radical approach to prostitution that faced ridicule when it was introduced nine years ago.

Now, while Americans are preoccupied with the downfall of New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer in a prostitution scandal, some countries are considering emulating the Swedish model, which prosecutes the client but views the prostitute as an exploited victim.

Officials say the changed approach has reduced the demand for prostitutes and reshaped attitudes toward the sex trade.

"We don't have a problem with prostitutes. We have a problem with men who buy sex," said Kajsa Wahlberg, of the human trafficking unit at Sweden's national police board. She said foreign law enforce-

ment officials and politicians are coming to Sweden in droves to learn more about its 1999 law.

On Friday, Wahlberg was meeting with police officials from the Netherlands, where prostitution is legal but where authorities have closed some brothels in a crackdown on organized crime in Amsterdam's red light district.

In January, a high-level British delegation came to study the Swedish approach as Britain reviews its own prostitution laws, which prohibit soliciting and loitering for sex, but not buying sex.

Norway's government plans to propose a Swedish-style prostitution law after Easter.

Under Sweden's so-called "Sex Purchase Law," paying for sex is punished by fines or up to six months in prison, plus the humiliation of public exposure.

UN says drop in Iraq violence may not last

BAGHDAD (AP)—The influx of thousands of U.S. forces has driven down insurgent attacks in Baghdad, but violence elsewhere in Iraq raises questions about whether killings will continue to drop as American forces begin to leave, the United Nations said Saturday.

As security improved in Baghdad, violent attacks spread last year to other parts of the country, including Diyala Province and Mosul, al-Qaida's last urban stronghold, according to the report from the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq.

"The government of Iraq continued to face enormous challenges in its efforts to bring sectarian violence and other criminal activity under control against a backdrop of political instability," the report, which examined the last six months of 2007, said.



Men arrested guarding a huge arms and ammunition cache squat blindfolded and tied near Youssifiyah, 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, March 15, 2008.

"This is a window of opportunity for Iraq," Staffan de Mistura, the U.N. chief in Iraq, said at a news conference in

Baghdad.

The U.S. military has said a 60 percent reduction in attacks followed the influx of more

than 20,000 additional troops, known as the surge. Military officials did not respond to requests for comment.

Health & Fitness

Triathlon: Triple the challenge

By JEANNINE STEIN

(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Triathlons are the new marathons.

Not content with running a mere 26.2 miles, today's athletes-in-need-of-a-goal are signing up for swim/cycle/run combinations. Although the Ironman format (a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and a marathon) is familiar to most, other races offer a variety of distances. They include the sprint (half-mile swim, 12.4-mile bike ride and 3.1-mile run), the Olympic (0.93-mile swim, 24.8-mile bike ride and 6.2-mile run), and the half-Ironman (1.2-mile swim, 56-mile bike ride and 13.1-mile run).

"People are looking for the next thing—they're reaching, trying new things," says Paul Ruggiero, head triathlon coach for the Greater Los Angeles chapter of Team in Training, a training group sponsored by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. "Go to a race," he adds, "and you'll see different body types and a huge range of socioeconomic backgrounds."

But training for a triathlon can be a daunting task. Becoming proficient in three sports, learning how to swim in open water, finding the right bicycle, carving out additional time to work out—these can befuddle those adept at doing just one, or even two, things well.

Survival Tips

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

Ready ... set ... get nervous: The adrenaline rush that comes with butterflies can be an asset. "They can be good fuel," says the Los Angeles Tri Club's Ian Murray, adding that it's important to keep perspective, even when your palms are sweating. "Think about the successes you've had, the little breakthroughs and competencies you've developed." The first four minutes of a race can be the most harrowing, he adds. "You've got the tension of the race and people around you, and you're about to run into the water together. If you're a good swimmer, get in the front of the group. If you're a slower swimmer, go to the back or the sides (of the pack)—where one side will be calm and the other will be a scrum."

■ For transitions, practice makes perfect.

Not all athletes practice the changes in clothing and gear between events, but they should, says Murray. "I think most people figure it's a short time, they don't need to pay attention to it. An organized transition can be



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Competitors head for the water as they start the first leg of the 2007 Los Angeles Triathlon in Venice Beach, Calif.

How to Train

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

More isn't always better. Overtraining is a common mistake novices make. "The first thing people think is that they're going to go hard every day, adding volume each day," says Sergio Borges, a San Diego-based triathlon coach. "But they become totally fatigued and overtrained. You have to out-train the com-

petition, not by going harder, but by being smarter—knowing when to go easy and when to go hard, and how to recover." It's essential to plan days off and light training days.

■ Don't skip the weights. Weight training may be tedious, but without it athletes grow weaker and slower with age. Borges likes to concentrate on exercises for the lower body and core, the muscles triathletes use most. "For arms, you

should be specific about what areas to target," he says, "such as the triceps and shoulders, which are used in swimming. And functional weight training is good, such as using a barbell for squats, since you're using your core to keep your balance. Any time you're working with free weights, you're using more than one muscle, and in the biomechanics of movement, you never isolate muscles."

■ Understand your strengths and weaknesses. Most people come to triathlon with experience in one or two of the three

See HOW on Next Page

done in two minutes, but unpracticed, that can turn into six or seven minutes pretty easily."

■ Go along swimmingly.

Making contact with other swimmers in open water is inevitable, but it shouldn't derail your swim.

"The thing I didn't realize is that contact in the water is



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Triathlete Mickie Shapiro does some weight lifting—sort of—with her bike. During a race, most athletes rely on easy-to-handle sports drinks, gels and nutrition bars for quick energy and nutrients.

something that's probably going to happen, but "it's incidental contact," says amateur Larry Davidson, "like you're walking around in a crowded city. It's assumed that people are going to bump into each other, and they're not being rude; it just happens, so try to stay calm. When I got an arm on me, I didn't panic; I just reminded myself that no one was

trying to hurt me."

■ Don't expect a perfect race.

"Someone once told me that a good day at Ironman is when you have two minor catastrophes," says triathlete Hillary Biscay. "The sport is really about the woes of the day, physical or mental, and it's how you deal with them that separates the best people in the sport. If you have to spend a few minutes at the side of the road, you can still make something of the day. I believe that if I keep running to the finish line and cross it, regardless of what my time is, I've done the best with what I had on that day. That's a victory."

■ Enjoy the ride.

Don't keep an eye on your watch. "For your very first race, don't even time yourself," says Mickie Shapiro, a 71-year-old triathlete from Costa Mesa, Calif., who has competed in 19 Ironman races. "It seems like everybody who puts their foot in the ocean these days wants to go to Kona, but I would love for people to do it also for the camaraderie. There is a family of triathletes, and it's very fun, and everyone is very accepting."

The Right Fuel for You

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

Finding the nutrition plan that suits you and your training schedule takes trial and error. Wading through the many choices of waters, sports drinks, protein bars, gels and other foods for training and races can be daunting but, with so many kinds, some combination is bound to work.

■ Generally, triathletes should stick to a 60 percent carb, 20 percent protein and 20 percent fat diet, says Suzanne Girard Eberle, a Portland, Ore.-based sports dietitian and author of "Endurance Sports Nutrition." She recommends whole grains, lean proteins, fresh fruits and vegetables, healthy fats such as nuts, and low-fat dairy foods—plus some "fun foods" now and then.

■ Almost as important as what you eat is when you eat. "Most people can tell you what they're going to do that day—work, exercise—but they don't plan when they're going to eat. You don't want to be so hungry that when you're running out the door you're running on fumes," Eberle says.

Eating should be done before and after a workout, with some calories taken in during exercise if it's an exceptionally long and intense session. This is the time to go heavy on the carbs, which will supply muscles with needed fuel.

Skipping or postponing

snacks and meals or cutting back on calories will ultimately do an athlete in, Eberle says. Maintaining a steady diet "is what helps athletes be consistent from day to day."

■ Although diet advice is readily available online, from books and via coaches, not all of it is good. When in doubt, trust registered dietitians or those who have a solid education and background in nutrition.

■ Consider the type of race, weather conditions and how much you sweat when determining how much fluid to take in. "An Ironman is different from a sprint distance," coach Paul Ruggiero says. "A good rule of thumb is to drink a bottle of fluid (about 16 to 20 ounces) per hour. You definitely have to experiment and make mistakes in training so you have it together on race day."

■ During training, eating a light breakfast before a morning workout is key, coach Ian Murray says. "It's important to put a little something in the system to get the engine going. A low-glycemic carb is good, something that you'll burn slowly. Oatmeal is great, with a little protein such as egg whites."

■ During races, most athletes keep energy up with sports drinks, gels and nutrition bars, which are easy to handle, provide calories and nutrients, and aren't hard to digest.

Starting Points

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

Going from couch potato to star triathlete isn't unheard of, but most people come to the sport with some level of mastery in at least one of the three sports. Full proficiency isn't required—coaches have had to teach adults how to ride a bike—but being able to run a 5K or swim a few laps is helpful.

Here are some steps to get you going.

■ Become a member. Joining a triathlon club or training team is a great way to begin.

"You can have tons of questions answered, because it's made up of people who have done triathlons," says Ian Murray, head coach of the Los Angeles Tri Club. "There's something about the triathlon community, especially in the club environment. People are excited and passionate."

■ Watch first. If you're not sure a triathlon is for you, or if the whole notion of a race is intimidating, "it's a great idea to check

one out," says Los Angeles-based triathlon coach Paul Ruggiero. "You'll see fast people and people just getting through the race, and that will lessen the intimidation factor. You'll think, 'If they can do it, I can do it.'"

■ Practice full disclosure. Let your family and friends know what to expect. "Tell them that you're going to do an event and that life is going to be a little different," Ruggiero says. "Whatever it is, be out front and open about it. And then the training will blend into your life."

■ Just sign on the dotted line. "I had self-doubts and told myself I probably couldn't do it," says Larry Davidson, a 51-year-old amateur triathlete from Dana Point, Calif., of his first venture into triathlon racing after years of running and doing marathons. "I could probably handle the bike portion, but in swimming I'd probably drown. So I signed up for a race, and having that race in front of me, months out, helped. Just sign up. It's going to motivate you to start training."



Larry Davidson, 51, of Dana Point, Calif., has been competing in triathlons for three years.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

■ Consider an intermediate goal such as a 10K run or a 50-mile bike race. A less ambitious event is terrific preparation, boosting confidence and highlighting potential weaknesses.

■ Prevent surprises. Research a race course as much as you can ahead of time, advises Murray, learning the terrain and grades for the run and bike portions and possible weather conditions.

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Life & Style

NY gov's journey toward resignation

By AMY WESTFELDT and
MICHAEL GORMLEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

NEW YORK (AP)—Eliot Spitzer finally had to tell someone his secret.

It was last Sunday morning, and he had just spent five hours driving through a fierce storm to his family and his Fifth Avenue apartment.

Until then, the law-and-order New York governor had not dropped a hint of the bombshell that was about to force him from office, not a strained word during public appearances Friday in Manhattan or glad-handing the media at a Saturday dinner in Washington.

But shortly after entering his luxurious high-rise building a little after noon, Spitzer faced his wife of two decades, Silda, and he had to tell her:

The "Mr. Clean" ex-prosecutor known for fighting corruption and taking the moral high ground was going to be outed as a client of a \$5,500-an-hour prostitution ring.

After a few hours alone, they broke the news to their three teenage daughters.

A day later, the scandal went public. Two days after that, his career would be officially finished.

Spitzer's secrets began to unravel last year when banks tipped Internal Revenue Service agents to something strange going on with his accounts, authorities said. His money transfers were setting off all sorts of red flags.

The case was referred last fall to federal prosecutors, who came to believe that Spitzer may have spent tens of thousands of dollars transferring money between accounts to pay for prostitutes, according to a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case.

The first public hint of Spitzer's downfall was dropped in a federal court in Manhattan on March 6. Four people were charged with running a prostitu-

tion and money-laundering ring called Emperors Club VIP.

It was clear this was more than a run-of-the-mill prostitution bust. The prosecutors assigned to the case were headed by the U.S. attorney's public corruption unit, which generally looks at cases involving elected officials. None of the prostitution ring's clients was named, but the 47-page document detailed dealings with 10 of them - identified only as Clients 1 through 10.

On pages 26 through 31, "Client 9" - who law enforcement officials say is Spitzer - was described as being caught on

Court papers said he paid her \$4,300 in cash, and the next morning Spitzer left the hotel for Capitol Hill. He did an early interview on CNBC and testified before Congress about a crisis in the bond insurance market.

Three weeks later, on March 7, a federal official told Spitzer he was implicated in the call-girl case. He learned about it some time between smiling for cameras as he doled out \$5 million to downtown small businesses and attending a forum about the future of education.

The next day, a Saturday,

a care in the world," Daniszewski said.

During the dinner, a Spitzer aide received repeated cell phone calls from a New York Times reporter wanting to speak with the governor. The reporter, Danny Hakim, wouldn't tell the aide why.

Spitzer's staff assumed the call was about the "Troopergate" scandal that had damaged the first year of his term, in which two ex-aides were accused of using the state police to compile records to embarrass state's top Republican legislator, Sen. Joseph Bruno.

The governor said nothing to enlighten his staff.



AP
New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer announces his resignation amidst a prostitution scandal as wife Silda looks on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 in his offices in New York City.

a wiretap Feb. 12 and Feb. 13, ordering a tryst with a prostitute at Washington's Renaissance Mayflower Hotel.

"Yup. Same as in the past, no question about it," Client 9 told a booking agent when asked if he had sent cash to the same place as he did in the past, the court papers say.

When told he would be meeting the prostitute known as "Kristen" Client 9 said: "Great, OK, wonderful."

"An American petite, very pretty brunette, 5 feet 5 inches and 105 pounds," the agent, Temeka Rachelle Lewis, told Client 9, according to the affidavit.

Spitzer hopped a plane back to Washington for the 123rd annual Gridiron Club dinner, the party for journalists and political personalities. The governor, in white tie and tails, mingled with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, filmmaker Ken Burns and Chief Justice John Roberts.

Spitzer appeared to be in a good mood, watching President Bush singing a parody about the "brown, brown grass of home" in Texas. He chatted cheerfully with Teamsters president James P. Hoffa and others, including John Daniszewski, international editor of The Associated Press.

"It seemed like he didn't have

After breaking the news to his family Sunday, Spitzer summoned his closest advisers, Lloyd Constantine and Richard Baum. The small group huddled at his home until midnight.

Spitzer thought his career was over, said aides, all speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the discussions. Constantine and Spitzer's wife urged him not to resign right away.

"He thought he should resign from the very beginning," one aide said. "It was really family and others' suggestion that he should hang on."

Monday morning, Spitzer was visited by his sister Emily, an accomplished attorney. A half-dozen personal and political advisers were told. So was Michele Hirshman, a criminal defense attorney and his former deputy attorney general.

Aware that the Times was close to posting a story about the investigation, Spitzer scheduled an announcement at his midtown Manhattan office.

At about 2 p.m., a headline flashed across the top of the Times' Web site: "Spitzer linked to prostitution ring."

More than an hour later, a pale, watery-eyed Spitzer took his wife before national TV cameras, bit his lip and apologized.

"I have acted in a way that violates my obligations to my family and violates my - or any - sense of right and wrong," he said.

"I apologize first and most importantly to my family. I apologize to the public, whom I promised better."

He didn't say then what he was apologizing for, or what he would do next.

It took less than an hour for the first Republican to call for his resignation; others soon talked of impeachment.

No Democrats came forward to defend him. On Wall Street, where Spitzer built his reputation as a crusader against shady practices and overly generous pay, cheers erupted on the trading floor. Many financial industry types thought the "Sheriff of Wall Street" was a holier-than-thou bully who had overzealously ruined many careers.

By Tuesday, more details had seeped out. A law enforcement official said Spitzer was a repeat customer of the Emperors Club, paying up to \$80,000 over an extended period.

Serious criminal charges were possible: soliciting sex; violating the Mann Act, the 1910 federal law that makes it a crime

to induce someone to cross state lines for immoral purposes; and arranging cash transactions to conceal their purpose.

Newspapers plastered photos of Spitzer next to his sad-eyed wife across front pages under headlines like "Pay for Luv Gov," and "Eliot and the Call Girl." Late-night comedians devoted entire monologues to the scandal.

Spitzer and family, holed up at the Fifth Avenue apartment, hardly ate or slept. He talked occasionally to his defense team that grew to include Ted Wells, a lawyer for I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Vice President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff. Hirshman spent hours with prosecutors learning more about the possible case against Spitzer.

Silda Wall Spitzer stopped telling her husband not to resign, aides said.

One poll said 70 percent of the state wanted him to step down.

On Wednesday, national TV showed a macabre motorcade carrying the Spitzers back to midtown, to the same conference room he used for his announcement two days earlier.

Reading a statement calmly, without his trademark rapid-fire bravado, Spitzer ended his career, opening the way for Lt. Gov. David Paterson to become the first black governor of New York.

"Over the course of my public life I have insisted, I believe correctly, that people, regardless of their position or power, take responsibility for their conduct. I can and will ask no less of myself," Spitzer said.

"For this reason I am resigning from the office of governor."

Silda Wall Spitzer, dark circles under her eyes, stood a few inches farther from him than she had Monday, staring blankly into space.

"It wasn't real to me until I saw her face," one close aide said.

Michael Gormley reported from Albany.

STARTING

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tions. "Find out everything you can. Generally race Web sites

walking about 50 percent to 60 percent of the marathon. I did finish, but I did it in a fashion that was really ugly."

Remember—it's only a triathlon. Even the most serious triathletes need a break once in a while. "Sometimes I stay out late," athlete Beverly Atkins says. "I know that instead of getting up at 6 a.m., I'm going to have to train after work. You have to have a life." Adds coach Paul Ruggiero: "Don't let training overwhelm your life. I remind people to keep it light—when you're training, try to talk about movies rather

are good about listing course typography and description, where aid will be available and what will be available—water or some type of sports drink. You want to know it all."

than your cadence."

Do training that's enjoyable, and commit to it. Not every session is going to be blissful, but workouts can be fun. Try trail running instead of the usual treadmill run. "Once you punch through those days when you feel like shutting off the alarm clock," says Hillary Biscay, a 29-year-old professional triathlete from Tucson, Ariz., "it's easier to keep going. When the alarm clock goes off, I get up and train. End of story. If you can train yourself to do that, you'll be OK."

HOW

From Page 17

events. "Try to figure out what you're strong and weak in," says Playa del Rey, Calif.-based coach Robert Hockley. "If you're a good runner, put that into maintenance training mode, and work on skill development and endurance in swimming and cycling. Usually people who do incredibly well in triathlon are exceptional in one event and very good in the other two. They worked to make themselves a well-rounded athlete."

Training shouldn't just be sport-specific. "In triathlon training," Hockley says, "you spend a great deal of time in a forward flexion position with rounded posture. If you only keep doing that, the muscles that hold you up straight will become weak and you'll be out of balance. Usually when there's an imbalance, you're more susceptible to injury. You should try to increase your flexibility and range of motion, and that includes doing things like yoga."

When it comes to training, newbies should "pick (cycling) routes where you know you're not going to be dealing with tons

of traffic," Hockley says. Beginners should also avoid crowded pools and tracks to work on technique and speed.

Give it a rest. Training at maximum capacity shouldn't happen year-round. "You need to ebb and flow," triathlete Larry Davidson says. "Between races, I quit calling my workouts workouts. I call it exercise, and I incorporate a lot of wacky stuff, and total body training. I'll run and do some push-ups, then run again and do some crunches, weird stuff that mixes it up. I'll do a lot more group rides, when I can talk to people."

Train in different weather conditions. Duplicate the weather conditions of a race so that your body can adjust, and be flexible on race day. "I was foolish with my sophomore efforts at the Ironman Austria in 2000," says Ian Murray of the Los Angeles Tri Club. "I set a swim pace that was incredibly fast, and same with the bike. It was hot that day, and I didn't listen to my body and I didn't stay aware of the climate. By the time I was five kilometers into my run, I knew I was in trouble. I was fatigued and sick to my stomach. I was

Study: Profanity affects PG box office

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A new study by The Nielsen Co. found that the PG-rated movies with the least profanity made the most money at the U.S. box office.

Sexuality or violence in those films had less to do with success than the language, the Nielsen PreView group said in a study being released Thursday.

"The reality is that profanity, within PG, is the big demarcation between box office winner and box office loser," research and marketing director Dan O'Toole said at ShoWest, a conference where studios unveil upcoming movie lineups.

"Parents are choosing PG films for their kids that have very, very low levels of profanity. We're talking

one-third the level of the average PG film," he said.

There's research firm cross-referenced box office data on 400 films in wide-release from the fall of 2005 to the fall of 2007 with their ratings for sex, violence and profanity given by Critics Inc.'s Kids-In-Mind.com Web site.

Controlling for marketing and sex, movies that scored an average 0.8 on a 10-point profanity scale collected an average of \$69 million. Those that averaged 2.8 for profanity averaged \$38 million.

Michael's back on 'Lost' series

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP)—So Michael is on the boat, but what's he been up to all this time?

"I wish I could tell you," actor Harold Perrineau said in an interview with The Associated Press.

It's the question that's nagged "Lost" viewers since the tormented single father castaway played by Perrineau sailed away with his son from the ABC drama at the end of the second season—and didn't return at any point during the third.

Although he's been listed as a cast member throughout the current fourth season, Perrineau didn't appear onscreen until Thursday, when Michael was introduced as a deck-swabbing crewman named Kevin Johnson on that mysterious freighter that's been drifting off the coast and apparently giving those aboard a deadly case of cabin fever.

Viewers will find out where Michael has been for the past season and a half—about half a month in island time—during the March 20 episode, which was filmed last year before the writer's strike forced ABC to shut down production.

The Michael-centric episode—or should we call him Kevin now?—will feature flashbacks detailing what happened after Perrineau's character shockingly gunned down fellow passengers Ana-Lucia and Libby in order to release seemingly evil Ben and retrieve his son Walt from captivity.

"I hope people see Michael's return and think, 'Oh, this is gonna be good,'" Perrineau told the AP over lunch Wednesday. "I hope they think this ride is good. We busted our butts doing this one. It felt like we were making a movie because there's so much stuff that happens in this episode."

Getting the rest of the Michael-related "Lost" questions out of the way: Was Michael ever able to get back home to New York? Will his son also return to the show? And was he the man in the coffin during that jaw-dropping flashforward at



In this photo released by Paramount Pictures, Hogsqueal helps Jared Grace spy on the wicked creatures in "The Spiderwick Chronicles."

as well as depictions of violence and sex, movies that scored an average 0.8 on a 10-point profanity scale collected an average of \$69 million. Those that averaged 2.8 for profanity averaged \$38 million.

All PG movies averaged 2.3 on the profanity scale.

The Nielsen unit, which launched a fee-based research Web site for studios on Tuesday, also listed other early predictors of success.

The company found that movies that received approval from more than 70 percent of critics, regardless of their stature, earned far more at the box office.

In addition, Internet buzz about a horror film had little relation to its eventual box office draw. Other films, however, saw paydays increase in relation to Web chatter.

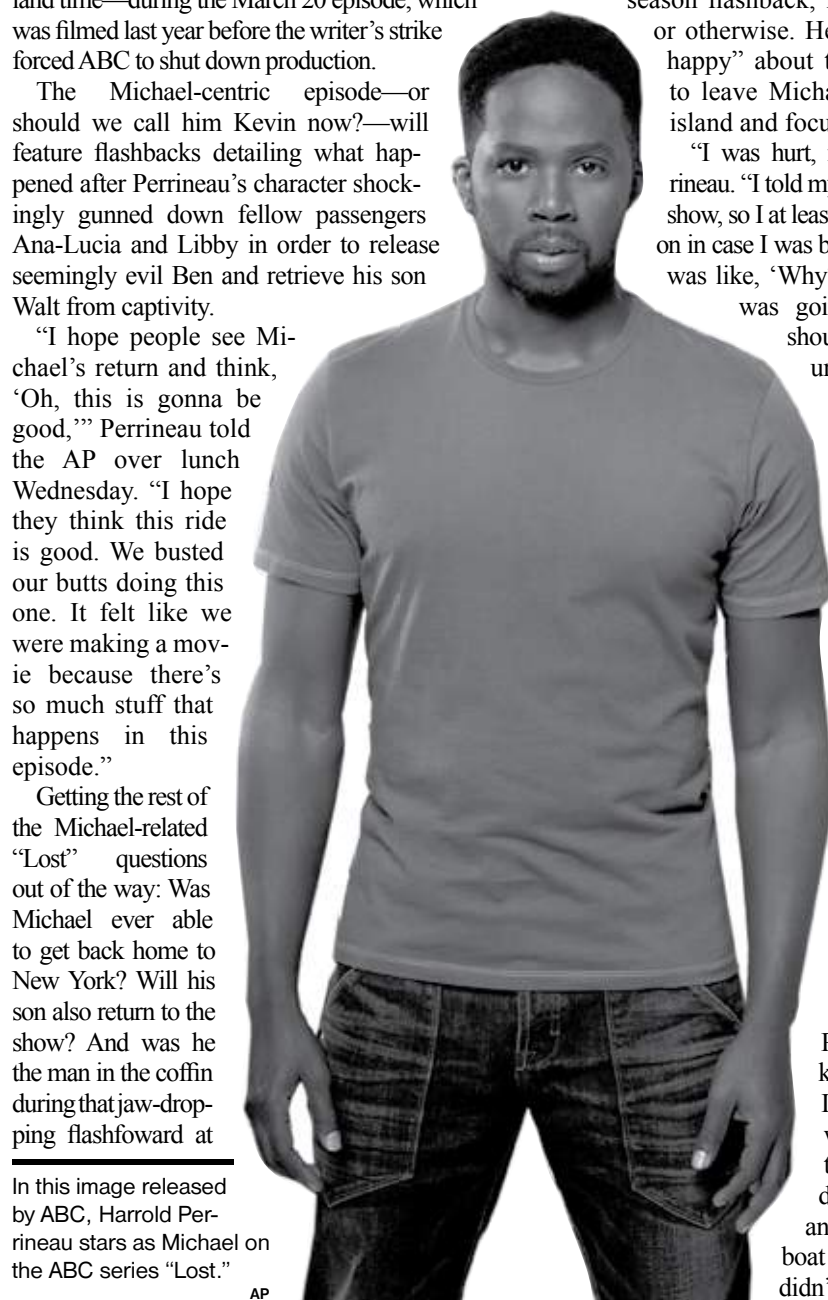
the end of season three? According to Perrineau, the answers are yes, maybe and he has no idea.

"Oh, I thought for sure it was Michael in the coffin," he said. "But I still don't know."

Perrineau, whose "Lost" return was triumphantly teased at Comic-Con 2007, says the show's writers have kept him just as clueless as the audience. He hasn't read any scripts for the six planned post-strike episodes. However, that doesn't mean viewers should expect less Michael after next week. Perrineau was scheduled to report to set in Hawaii following Wednesday's interview with the AP.

"I know I'll be there until the end of the season," he said. "I have no idea if it goes beyond that or not."

The 44-year-old actor from New York tenses up when he talks about the third season. Perrineau was the only one of the 14 original "Lost" cast members to not appear in a third-season flashback, mind-bending vision or otherwise. He says he "wasn't so happy" about the creative decision to leave Michael and Walt off the island and focus on others.



In this image released by ABC, Harold Perrineau stars as Michael on the ABC series "Lost."

Senator writes of cancer

By **KIMBERLY HEFLING**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Arlen Specter knows a thing or two about bad health. Spry and physically fit at age 78, he also has a few secrets about living.

In a new book, Specter, already looking ahead to his next re-election fight in 2010, chronicles the painful chemotherapy treatments that left him bald in 2005 as he played a very public role chairing the committee that confirmed Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts.

Specter, a five-term Republican who is Pennsylvania's longest-serving senator, credits getting up every day for work with getting him through the treatments for Hodgkin's disease, a cancer of the lymph system.

He said he was motivated to write his book, "Never Give In: Battling Cancer in the Senate," because he wanted to be instructive and inspiring to others.

"I think we ought to let it all hang out because when somebody is stricken with cancer, or heart disease, or Parkinson's or Alzheimer's, they ought to know they are not alone," said Specter in an interview from

his Capitol Hill office.

Specter, a former Philadelphia prosecutor, acknowledges early in the book that he's not practiced in the art of "sharing some of the personal details that fill this book." For example, he discusses problems with balance and mouth sores that he developed while undergoing chemotherapy.

He describes looking out a window onto Philadelphia as a needle was inserted into his arm for his chemotherapy cocktails while he had nostalgic conversations with those around him.

Cancer handed me "a stark look at mortality" and an "added sense of humility," Specter said.

"When you look at yourself in the mirror every day and see your face

turning gray, and you're becoming pallid and you're losing all your hair and you're bald, and you've been told that you only have a certain percentage chance for living five years, (it) makes every day more meaningful," Specter said.

Specter said he first noticed something was wrong after his tough election in 2004, when he was struck by fatigue so intense he felt drugged and had to take frequent naps on a couch in his Capitol office.



Spencer

20TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We, the family of the late

*Maria Kotomar
Taitano - Lieto*

would like to invite all friends
and relatives to join us in prayers
as we commemorate
her 20th year of passing
unto eternal life.

Nightly rosary is being offered every 7:30 p.m. at
Mr. & Mrs. Martin A./Rosa L. Pua residence in Kagman II
beginning Monday, March 17, 2008 until
Tuesday, March 25, 2008.

On the final day, March 25, 2008, dinner will be served at
the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Martin A. Pua in
Kagman II at 7:00 p.m.

Thank you for
your prayers.

THE FAMILY



Husband remains in the dark about wife's nighttime visitor

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am 27, and my wife, "Marybeth," is 26. We recently went to my folks' house for supper. That evening a heavy snowstorm was starting and, because the trip home is 30 miles, we decided to stay overnight.

My old bedroom is upstairs, as are the rooms of my brothers, ages 25, 24 and 22. The guest room is downstairs. Because the room is quite small, and Marybeth said she felt a cold coming on, we decided I'd sleep in my old room.

The next day, while we were driving home, Marybeth told me she was glad I had come to her room after all and made love to her.

Abby, it wasn't me! She had mistaken one of my brothers for me in the darkness. We are all about the same size and build.

I have talked to each of my brothers (they all know about this), but they won't say who it was for fear of causing a rift between the guilty party and me. I told them that unless I find out who it was, there will be a permanent rift between all of us. (Marybeth still doesn't know it wasn't me.)

How do I handle this?

ENRAGED IN ROCHESTER, N.Y.

DEAR ENRAGED: While you and your brothers may have a strong family resemblance, I find it hard to believe that you all smell, taste and make love like clones. So please do not accept as gospel that your wife didn't have an inkling that it wasn't you. As to who actually crept into her bed in your absence, if your brothers won't reveal who the guilty party is, then they're all equally guilty, and I wouldn't blame you for severing ties with them.

It's time to have a serious chat with your wife and get chapter and verse on what happened that night. Then she should be tested for STDs and treated if necessary.

It is possible for a couple to get past something like this, if you're both willing to work at it. The shortest route would be with the help of a licensed family therapist.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm 19 and have a 9-month-old, "Sean." I live with his dad, "Richie," and my father-in-law, "Dick."

Dick drinks a lot and offers my baby beer. Dick also likes to tease Sean. He also leaves coins, toothpicks and cotton swabs on the floor, where Sean sometimes sleeps.

My son puts everything he can put his hands on into his mouth. Dick loafes all day and doesn't pay any of the bills. Please give me some advice. I'm so stressed out, I don't know what to do.

STRESSED OUT, MIDLAND, TEXAS

DEAR STRESSED OUT: First, your baby should not be sleeping on the floor in these conditions. Second, offer your husband a choice. Either he insists that Dick straighten up his act, or you'll take Sean and make other living arrangements.

It's important, for your son's sake, that you draw the line NOW -- even if it means getting a job and putting your baby in day care. For "Grandpa" to give him alcohol is against the law. And if you don't put a stop to it, it could be considered child endangerment.

■ ■ ■

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY IRISH READERS:

A Happy St. Patrick's Day to you all.

"May the road rise to meet you,
"May the wind be always at your back,
"May the sun shine warm upon your face,
"May the rain fall soft upon your fields,
"And, until we meet again,
"May God hold you in the palm of his hand."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)



Dear Abby

Spears 'having a blast' on CBS' 'Mother'

NEW YORK (AP)—Britney Spears is relishing her new role on "How I Met Your Mother." Spears has been tapping her much-hyped cameo on the CBS sitcom for the March 24 episode, in which she portrays a receptionist in a dermatologist's office named Abby who crushes on Ted (Josh Radnor).

"Working at 'How I Met Your Mother' has been so terrific," Spears said in a statement Thursday. "Everyone, including the cast, the crew and the producers, has been wonderful and Abby is such a fun girl to play. I'm having a blast!"

CBS spokesman Kelli Raftery said Spears attended a table reading with the cast on Monday, did a "run-through" on Tuesday and filmed scenes Wednesday. Raftery confirmed reports that Spears' divorced parents—James and Lynne—dropped by the "Mother" set on Wednesday.

Spears was scheduled to shoot scenes Thursday.

Radnor told People.com that "on the first day of the shoot, Britney knew her lines better than I knew mine. She's been great to work with."

Spears has previous TV sitcom experience playing a character on a 2006 episode of "Will and Grace." She was also the host and musical guest on "Saturday Night Live" in 2000.

"How I Met Your Mother," returning Monday with all-new episodes following the writers strike, co-stars Radnor, Jason Segal, Alyson Hannigan, Cobie Smulders and Neil Patrick Harris as twentysomethings living in New York City.

Spears has been under the conservatorship of her father, James, following bizarre behavior and two hospitalizations. She is also locked in a custody battle with ex-husband Kevin Federline over the former couple's sons, Jayden James, 1, and Sean Preston, 2.

AP
Britney Spears arrives for the grand opening party of LAX nightclub at the Luxor hotel-casino in Las Vegas, in a Sept. 1, 2007 file photo.



Minnie Driver confirms she's pregnant



AP
Actress Minnie Driver arrives at the 59th Prime-time Emmy Awards in this Sept. 16, 2007, file photo at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Minnie Driver says she's got the bump. The 38-year-old actress and singer confirmed during an appearance Thursday on NBC's "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno" that she's pregnant with her first child. Leno joked that she appeared to have gained weight.

"Are you calling me fat? You've noticed my tummy, haven't you?" Driver said.

"Are you pregnant?" Leno replied.

"Yes, I am," she said.

Driver said she loves being pregnant but is frequently sick.

"I don't know why they call it morning sickness," she said. "I am sick morning, noon and night, but it's a fair trade-off."

Driver didn't reveal the name of the father.

She would not be releasing additional details and had no other statement, publicist Jessica Kolstad said Friday.

Driver stars on the FX cable TV series "The Riches," which premieres Tuesday.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Wrestling exec Vince McMahon gets star

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- It was a smack-down - Hollywood-style. Vince McMahon, the promoter who helped turn professional wrestling into prime-time TV entertainment, got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Friday. He humbly thanked wrestlers and fans before shifting into the cocky, evil Mr. McMahon persona he uses on World Wrestling Entertainment telecasts. "I already know I'm a star," he said, drawing cheers from the crowd. "I'm the biggest star of all time." McMahon, WWE's owner, was honored in the television category. He has often appeared in the ring himself and helped wrestlers such as Hulk Hogan and The Rock become mainstream show business stars.

Snoop Dogg to remix ABC soap opera theme

NEW YORK (AP) -- Snoop Dogg is bringing some street cred to "One Life to Live." The 36-year-old rapper will make an extended cameo on the ABC soap opera to perform two songs from his new album, "Ego Trippin'," at the Ultra Violet club in the town of Llanview, the network said Thursday. Snoop's episodes will air May 8 and May 9, and feature his remixed version of the show's theme song. He will also act in scenes. "I've been a fan of 'One Life to Live' since I was a baby," said Snoop, who's set to perform "Sensual Seduction" and "Life of Da Party." "My momma always had it on the tube in tha crib growing up. The opportunity to change up the theme song and give it some of my flavor will make the show the Life of The Party." Mary J. Blige, Nelly Furtado, Chris Botti, Erykah Badu, Timbaland and Keri Hilson have also performed on the show.

Voigt leaves 'Tristan' in mid-opera

NEW YORK (AP)—Now the soprano at "Tristan und Isolde" is sick, too.

Already missing tenor Ben Heppner because of a virus, the Metropolitan Opera lost Deborah Voigt in the middle of the second act Friday night because of a stomach ailment.

Heppner withdrew from the first four performances of the highly anticipated six-performance run and was replaced by John Mac Master in Monday's opener and by Gary Lehman on Friday.

Voigt sang the opener but didn't sound at her best Friday and had trouble with the high notes during the first act. Her stomach didn't feel quite right during the entire act, spokesman Albert Imperato said, but she tried to make it through.

She hurried offstage near the beginning of the second-act love duet, and music director

James Levine kept conducting. Then the curtain came down, Lehman started singing and the orchestra stopped.

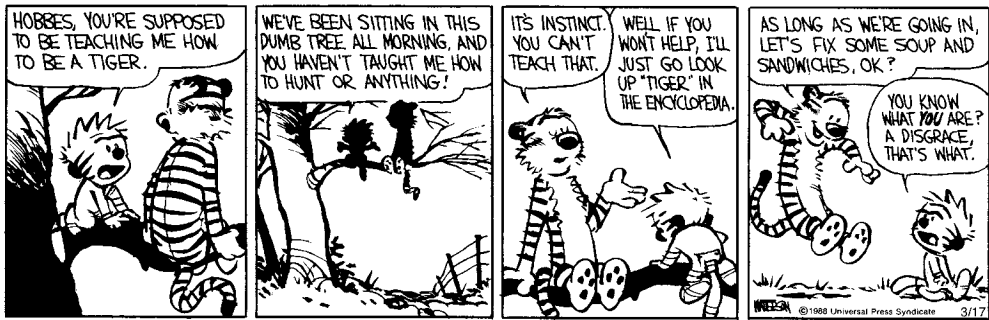
An announcement was made that Voigt suddenly had taken ill, and Janice Baird came on and replaced her about 15 minutes later. Baird and Lehman received enthusiastic applause at the end of the act.

Mac Master received mostly negative reviews following Monday's opener of the revival. Lehman made his Met debut Friday, and the Tristan for the next two performances is listed as TBA, including the March 22 matinee that is to be telecast to theaters worldwide.

Heppner and Voigt, two of the world's most acclaimed Wagnerian singers, were to be performing "Tristan" together for the first time.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 X-ray machine descendants

5 DDE's opponent

8 Begged

12 Explorer Amerigo

14 Philbin's co-host

15 "Hamlet" role

16 Portent

17 Tease

18 "Hurray!"

20 Desirable possession

23 Nimble

24 Midday

25 "Hamlet" role

28 Flop

29 Mentors

30 Underwear with underwire

32 "Hamlet" role

34 Kerosene lamp part

35 Muck partner

36 Buckwheat porridge

37 Fleet

40 Have a bug

41 Eight on a sundial

42 "Hamlet" role

47 "— do for now"

48 Impassions

49 Some necklines

50 —

51 Transmitted

1 Super Bowl star, for short

2 Old Olds

3 Land in the water (Abbr.)

4 Oral

5 Alkali

6 Old French coin

7 Rock-and-roll legend?

8 C3H7

9 Flaccid

10 Duel

11 Hamlet, for one

13 One

19 Enrages

20 Moreover

21 Satan's purchase

22 Pop

23 Binge

25 Incensed

26 Wading bird

27 St. Louis attraction

29 Crossword diagram, e.g.

31 Alias abbr.

33 PC in-box fill

34 Tusked creature

36 Friends and neighbors

37 Tel —

38 Ceremony

39 Oodles of inches

40 Origami and macramé, e.g.

43 Compass pt.

44 Apply

45 Lair

46 Superlative suffix

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 3-17

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Billy Corgan, 41; Rob Lowe, 44; Arye Gross, 48; Kurt Russell, 57

Happy Birthday: Plunge into unknown waters and learn something new. The more you have to add to your resume or to your life experience, the easier it will be for you to find your way. Children or younger friends will make a difference to the way you view things. Don't pass up an opportunity to advance because you are too afraid to try. Your numbers are 3, 14, 19, 27, 31, 34

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll have to take the bad with the good today. Try to remain unbiased and passive when dealing with friends or relatives. Discussing religion, politics or controversial subjects will lead to feuds. *****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone is likely to try to make you feel guilty for doing something you want to do. Don't let this person ruin your fun. Sometimes you have to follow your own path even if it means going it alone. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Rely on someone who has more experience and who can help you see things clearly. If you aren't certain about getting involved in something or about a change at home, take a pass. Don't make a decision without being sure. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put your heart into whatever you do. A change may not be your idea of a good time but, in the end, it will work in your favor. Don't be-

come emotional regarding finances. Money matters will improve. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let your emotions get the better of you. If someone makes you angry, don't retaliate. Focus on making money and getting work out of the way rather than wasting time or spending money trying to cheer yourself up. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't be too concerned about what anyone else does. You can meet new people, make plans that will help you professionally and financially, start new partnerships or even pick up a new hobby. Love is in the stars and romance can be yours. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Being successful will stop everyone from trying to run your life. Step outside the box and do things a little differently. Someone special wants to get to know you better. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may find it difficult to keep your emotions under control especially when discussing matters that concern someone's honesty. Try not to let this matter slow you down from what's really important. Everything else will even out. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will easily fool yourself into thinking that you have more than you do. Be careful not to make promises or commitments that will put you in debt. A change of mind or heart may bring serious repercussions. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You are pretty much in control, so follow through with your thoughts and actions and your

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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timing will be impeccable. You can undertake with confidence something that means a lot to you. Deals can be struck and security acquired. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Pressure may be put on you to help a cause. If it is someone you work with, reconsider your position and donate a little of your time. Don't lend money or accept others' responsibilities. It's one thing to lend a hand and another to be left doing everything on your own. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will get far more done working from home today. An opportunity will arise if you are in touch with someone you have worked with in the past. An idea you have will spark an interest in someone who is looking to make an investment. ***

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, enthusiastic and determined to succeed. You are creative, unique and not afraid to take on a challenge. You are serious-minded but love to daydream.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			1			8				
			9	1	2		8	4		
5	8							3		
	9			6					4	
	5		3	8	9			1		
1				5				8		
	3							9	7	
	1	7		3	2	6				
			4			3				

Difficulty Level ★

3/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	3	4	8	9	1	7	2	5
5	9	2	6	4	7	8	3	1
1	8	7	5	2	3	6	9	4
7	2	6	9	1	5	4	8	3
4	1	9	2	3	8	5	6	7
8	5	3	7	6	4	9	1	2
3	6	5	4	8	2	1	7	9
2	4	8	1	7	9	3	5	6
9	7	1	3	5	6	2	4	8

Difficulty Level ★★

3/15

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DALLAS ART GALLERIES

Solution: 8 letters

R	P	L	A	N	L	A	U	S	I	V	E	S	C	C
C	A	M	P	U	S	A	R	L	I	N	G	T	O	N
C	I	L	B	U	P	X	N	S	E	N	U	N	L	Y
L	N	N	U	S	H	T	I	C	I	N	T	E	L	S
A	T	R	C	P	E	T	N	N	I	E	V	E	E	C
S	I	E	D	X	O	A	E	Q	M	E	V	U	C	U
S	N	T	A	W	D	P	U	P	N	I	N	O	T	L
E	G	S	H	B	O	E	O	T	L	E	W	T	I	P
S	S	E	T	E	S	R	S	B	V	B	O	S	O	T
R	I	W	G	N	A	T	C	A	O	B	H	O	N	U
E	F	A	I	R	I	T	R	Y	L	O	S	H	S	R
V	M	R	Y	®	C	R	E	A	T	E	M	I	T	E
I	M	U	E	S	®	M	P	R	C	E	N	I	F	S
D	S	L	A	E	®	N	W	O	T	P	U	N	S	
P	O	R	T	R	A	I	®	S	T	U	D	I	O	G

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3/17

Abstract, Ancient, Arlington, Booming, Campus, Classes, Collections, Contemporary, Cowboy, Create, Crowd, Dance, Deals, Diverse, Events, Fair, Fine, Free, Host, Image, Lively, Museum, Openings, Paintings, Plan, Popular, Portraits, Prints, Public, Sale, Scene, Sculptures, Show, Studio, Texas, Theater, Tour, Unique, Uptown, Venues, Visit, Visual, Western

Last Saturday's Answer: Spiritual

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 15, 22, 23, 24, 25 or 26, send \$5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus \$3 postage for the first book order, \$1 per book for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 4620 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-8734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com. (Contains 45 puzzles, 9 of which are the larger, 20 x 20 size)

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

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1 ACCOUNTANT (SM 0026)
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1 HOUSEWORKER (SM 0027)
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1 COMPUTER PROGRAMMER (SM 0031)
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1 SALES SUPERVISOR (SM 0032)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided

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1 FOUNTAIN SERVER (SM 0033)
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1 AUTO MECHANIC (SM 0034)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Mantrade Company Inc. @235-0695/898-5713.

1 PLUMBER (SM 0035)
Salary:\$3.55-\$5.60/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provide food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Vestcor Real Estate, Ltd. @322-3797.

1 MAINTENANCE BLDG. REPAIRER (SM 0036)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.70/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provide food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Vestcor Real Estate, Ltd. @322-3797.

1 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER (SM 0037)
Salary:\$800.00-\$1,995.00/monthly. Benefits: Free housing; self provide food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Vestcor Real Estate, Ltd. @322-3797.

1 MASON (SM 0038)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: Guangdong Dev. Co., Ltd. @288-2288.

1 SALES MANAGER (SM 0039)
Salary:\$3.50-\$4.75/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: Guangdong Dev. Co., Ltd. @288-2288.

1 AUTO MECHANIC (SM 0040)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical expense. Contact: A.C.C.S. Corporation dba Cartown @233-9441.

1 ACCOUNTANT (SM 0041)
Salary:\$3.55-\$5.00/hour. Benefits: Employee may be eligible for bonus based on internal policies; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Marianas Eye Institute @235-9090.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (SM 0042)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen compensation. Contact: Mark

D. Pangelinan dba ABM Auto Body Repair Shop @285-3212.

1 PROGRAMMER (SM 0043)
Salary:\$650.00-\$700.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arrange housing; employee provided food; medical & workers compensation. Duties: Converts data from project specifications and statement of problems and procedures to create or modify computer program. Prepares and receives from systems analyst the workflow chart and diagram to illustrate sequence of steps that program must follow and to describe input, output and logical operations involved. Must know about programs of Synchronic Point of sale System & Peachtree accounting software. Contact: Saipan Computer Services, Inc. @234-9110.

1 ACCOUNTANT (SM 0044)
Salary:\$650.00-\$1,200.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arrange housing; employee provided food; medical & workers compensation. Duties: Prepares & compile financial records and reports such General Ledger, Cash receipts, Cash disbursement, Bank Reconciliation, monthly & annual financial statement. Reconciliation, receiving, recording & costing of inventory. Prepares payroll, monthly & quarterly reports of taxes & other government reports. Reconcile accts receivable and customer's records such as recording of payments & billing. Must know how to use Synchronic Point of sale system, Realworld & Peachtree Acctg. Software. Responsible for technical support of Counter POS & Peachtree accounting software. Contact: Saipan Computer Services, Inc. @234-9110.

1 COOK (SM 0045)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Lucky R. Corporation @235-5009.

1 ADMIN. ASSISTANT (SM 0046)
Salary:\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Numbers Int'l Inc. @235-5009.

1 COOK (SM 0047)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: JCC Corp. @234-3078.

1 PROMOTIONS (EVENTS) MANAGER (SM 0048)
Salary:\$2,000.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical coverage expenses; vacation leave (earned after 1 yr. of service); sick leave (earned after 90 days of service); compassionate leave; employees discount & workers compensation. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. dba Saipan Grand Hotel @234-6601.

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/s/ EDITH E. DELEON GUERRERO
VIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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Salary:\$5.75/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; medical coverage expenses; vacation leave (earned after 1 yr. of service); sick leave (earned after 90 days of service); compassionate leave; employees discount & workers compensation. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. dba Saipan Grand Hotel @234-6601.

1 ELECTRICIAN (SM 0050)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; medical coverage expenses; vacation leave (earned after 1 yr. of service); sick leave (earned after 90 days of service); compassionate leave; employees discount & workers compensation. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. dba Saipan Grand Hotel @234-6601.

1 FRONT OFFICE SUPERVISOR (SM 0051)

Salary:\$3.55-\$5.75/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; medical coverage expenses; vacation leave (earned after 1 yr. of service); sick leave (earned after 90 days of service); compassionate leave; employees discount & workers compensation. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. dba Saipan Grand Hotel @234-6601.

1 MANAGER, FRONT OFFICE (SM 0052)

Salary:\$1,972.00-\$2,200.00/monthly. Benefits: Taxes. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. dba Saipan Grand Hotel @234-6601.

1 ACCOUNTANT (SM 0053)

Salary:\$3.55-\$8.65/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; medical coverage expenses; vacation leave (earned after 1 yr. of service); sick leave (earned after 90 days of service); compassionate leave; employees discount & workers compensation. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. dba Saipan Grand Hotel @234-6601.

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Salary:\$3.55-\$3.75/hour. Benefits: \$30.00/monthly housing deduction; medical coverage expenses; vacation leave (earned after 1 yr. of service); sick leave (earned after 90 days of service); compassionate leave; employees discount & workers compensation. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. dba Saipan Grand Hotel @234-6601.

1 GARDENER (SM 0055)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: \$30.00/monthly housing deduction; medical coverage expenses; vacation leave (earned after 1 yr. of service); sick leave (earned after 90 days of service); compassionate leave; employees discount & workers compensation. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. dba Saipan Grand Hotel @234-6601.

1 ORDER CLERK (HOUSEKEEPING) (SM 0056)

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1 RESERVATION AGENT (SUPERVISOR) (SM 0057)

Salary:\$3.55-\$5.75/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; medical coverage expenses; vacation leave (earned after 1 yr. of service); sick leave (earned after 90 days of service); compassionate leave; employees discount & workers compensation. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. dba Saipan Grand Hotel @234-6601.

2 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIR (MW 0024)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Rifu Apparel Corp. dba Garment @234-9602.

1 DOCUMENTATION CLERK SHIPPING AND RECEIVING (MW 0025)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Rifu Apparel Corp. dba Garment @234-9602.

1 ELECTRICIAN (MW 0026)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Rifu Apparel Corp. dba Garment @234-9602.

3 MAINTENANCE MECHANIC (MW 0027)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Rifu Apparel Corp. dba Garment @234-9602.

1 QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER (MW 0028)

Salary:\$1,000.00-\$2,000.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Rifu Apparel Corp. dba Garment @234-9602.

14 CUTTER (MW 0029)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Rifu Apparel Corp. dba Garment @234-9602.

12 PRESSER (MW 0030)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Rifu Apparel Corp. dba Garment @234-9602.

35 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR (MW 0031)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Rifu Apparel Corp. dba Garment @234-9602.

1 ACCOUNTANT (MW 0032)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Rifu Apparel Corp. dba Garment @234-9602.

10 QUALITY CONTROL CHECKER/INSPECTOR (MW 0033)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Rifu Apparel Corp. dba Garment @234-9602.

1 CARPENTER (MW 0034)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from workplace. Contact: World International Corporation @233-1545.

3 DANCER (MW 0035)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Japan Enterprises Corporation @233-1545.

6 WAITRESS/WAITER (MW 0036)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Japan Enterprises Corporation @233-1545.

10 DANCER (MW 0037)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Japan Enterprises Corporation @233-1545.

6 WAITRESS/WAITER (MW 0038)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Japan Enterprises Corporation @233-1545.

1 SUPERVISOR (WM 0039)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

14 SINGER (MW 0040)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

11 DANCER (MW 0041)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

6 WAITRESS/WAITER (MW 0042)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

1 (ASST.) MANAGER NIGHT CLUB (MW 0043)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

1 SUPERVISOR (MW 0044)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

14 SINGER (MW 0045)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical cov-

erage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

11 DANCER (MW 0046)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

6 WAITRESS/WAITER (MW 0047)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

1 (ASST.) MANAGER NIGHT CLUB (MW 0048)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work

place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

1 (ASST.) MANAGER NIGHT CLUB (MW 0049)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

11 SINGER (MW 0050)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

10 DANCER (MW 0051)

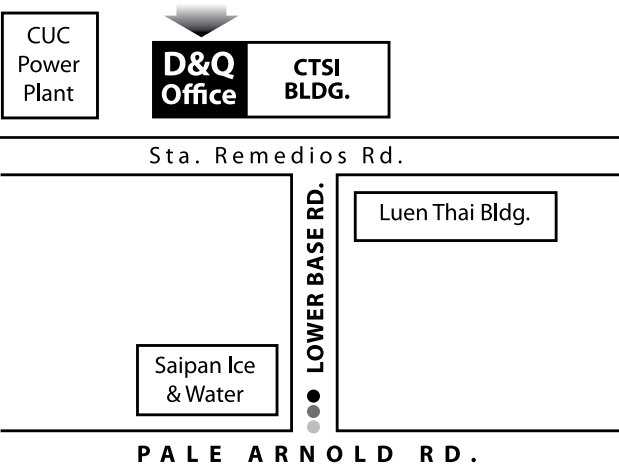
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76ers' two Andres lead team to win



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Andre Miller scored a season-high 32 points and Andre Iguodala had 25 to lead the Philadelphia 76ers to their third straight sparkling victory, 103-96 over the San Antonio Spurs on Saturday night.

The Sixers already knocked off Detroit and Chicago on the road this week and returned home to another suddenly supportive crowd. Philly (33-34) gave the faithful a reason to cheer from the opening tip, pressuring the Spurs into turnovers and turning back a late run by the champs.

Coach Maurice Cheeks said before the game he watches the scoreboard and especially keeps an eye on Washington, which entered Saturday holding a one-game lead on the Sixers for the sixth seed in the Eastern Conference. The Sixers are on track for their first playoff berth since 2005 and moved within a game of .500 for the first time since they were 2-3 on Nov. 9. That spiraled into a 5-13 start, but Philadelphia is 17-6 since Jan. 26 and has won nine of its last 10 at home.

Tony Parker scored 27 points, Manu Ginobili had 22 and Tim Duncan 16 for the Spurs, who were coming off a loss a night earlier at Detroit. San Antonio lost its third straight game overall and fifth straight on the road.

Samuel Dalembert had 10 points and 10 rebounds, and Lou Williams scored 12 points for the Sixers.

The Spurs, who had Bruce Bowen back in the lineup after a one-game suspension, rallied after they trailed by as many as



San Antonio Spurs' Fabricio Oberto, left, defends as Philadelphia 76ers' Andre Iguodala drives the ball into the lane during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Saturday, March 15, 2008, in Philadelphia.

13. Parker hit a running jumper late in the third that made it 72-66 and San Antonio

seemed as if it might finally get untracked after mostly uninspired basketball.

But Miller, the steady point guard who has really led Philadelphia's turnaround, knocked

down a 14-footer and hit a pull-up jumper that stretched the lead back to 79-66. The Sixers led 83-73 at the end of the third.

Parker's layup brought the Spurs within six again late in the fourth and then Ginobili blocked Miller's shot. The Spurs couldn't convert on the other end and Iguodala sank a difficult, step-back jumper with Bowen's hands up in his face that made it 94-86.

Miller hit another basket that brought the fans to their feet while Dalembert ran down the court waving his arms for the 19,942 to cheer even louder. Iguodala hit two free throws to seal the win.

Miller was 11-for-14 from the floor and made 10 of 11 free throws. He did not attempt a 3-pointer.

Up ahead for the Sixers is a Wednesday date with Denver and the player Miller was traded for: Allen Iverson. Iverson returns to Philadelphia for the first time since the former MVP was traded in December 2006, which will guarantee another packed house and likely a huge ovation.

The Sixers rallied from an 18-point deficit to win at Chicago on Friday night and carried that momentum over into this one, where they earned a rare and robust standing ovation when they led 28-23 at the end of the first quarter.

The Sixers made only one turnover in the first half while the Spurs committed nine, including three by Ginobili. Iguodala's driving layup gave the Sixers their first 13-point lead and Dalembert's alley-oop from Iguodala made it 53-40. They took a 53-45 lead into the break.

Magic 122 Pacers 111

At Orlando, Fla., Hedo Turkoglu scored 27 points, including nine in the final five minutes to help Orlando pull away from Indiana and clinch a playoff berth.

Nets 117, Jazz 115

At East Rutherford, N.J., Richard Jefferson made a running jumper with 1.5 seconds remaining to give New Jersey a victory over Utah.

Wizards 119, Clippers 109 (OT)

At Washington, Antawn Jamison scored 36 points, including three key free throws to send the game into overtime, and Washington beat Los Angeles.

Celtics 99 Bucks 77

At Milwaukee, Boston managed an easy victory without one of its three stars, beating Milwaukee as injured guard Ray Allen sat in a suit at the end of the bench.

Blazers 107, Timberwolves 96

At Portland, Ore., LaMarcus Aldridge scored 26 points, Brandon Roy had 25 points and eight assists, and the Trail Blazers beat Minnesota to sweep the season series.

Suns 127, Kings 99

At Phoenix, Amare Stoudemire had 30 points and 10 rebounds and the Suns won their fourth in a row.

Warriors 110, Grizzlies 107

At Oakland, Calif., Baron Davis scored all of his 19 points in the second half to help the Golden State Warriors slog their way to their eighth win in 10 games.

Back after a lost season, Stojakovic proves big shots are still his forte

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The reminder that Peja Stojakovic isn't quite the athlete he used to be comes each morning as he pulls his 2.08-meter (6-foot-10) frame out of bed.

"Let me tell you something. I could be a weather man," Stojakovic said of how his surgically repaired back stiffens or loosens according to atmospheric conditions.

That hasn't stopped the New Orleans Hornets' 30-year-old Serbian swingman from raining down 3-pointers at a near NBA-leading pace.

Sitting out only five of the Hornets' first 63 games this season, Stojakovic made 171 3-pointers heading into Friday's home game against the Los Angeles Lakers. His average of making three 3-pointers per game led the NBA.

The Hornets, meanwhile, surpassed last year's total of 39 wins with more than a month left in the regular season and

remain in contention for the top playoff seeding in the Western Conference.

"I couldn't imagine playing without him right now," Hornets All-Star point guard Chris Paul said. "Every time we need a big shot he's always hit it. He's hit some of the biggest shots I've seen since I've been in the league and he's done it on maybe five or six occasions."

Stojakovic joined the Hornets after signing a five-year, \$64 million (€41 million) free-agent contract before the 2006-07 season. He proceeded to play only 13 games before having season-ending surgery to remove a disk fragment in his lower back.

Without him, the Hornets finished 39-43, narrowly missing the playoffs.

Stojakovic said his surgery went so well that he tried to rush his comeback late last season, which caused swelling and pain. He started working out again early last summer and had another

flare-up, leading him to wonder how well he'd be able to handle an 82-game NBA season, not to mention the playoffs.

"I was hoping I was going to be pain-free, and the whole summer, I was on daily pain medicine just to operate," Stojakovic said, describing an "irritation where you just have to rest, take pain medication and wait. You don't know what's going to happen."

What has happened since November is a season so full of big shots that the New Orleans Arena crowd buzzes in anticipation every time Stojakovic gets the ball on the perimeter, similar to how fans in Sacramento did when Stojakovic played for contending Kings teams several years ago.

Stojakovic made a Hornets-record 10 3-pointers in a victory over the Los Angeles Lakers this season. He followed that up with a game-tying 3 against the Dallas Mavericks with 2.9 seconds left in regulation. The Hor-

nets went on to win in overtime, ending an eight-year losing streak against the Mavericks.

Last month, there was his game-winning 3-pointer with 15 seconds remaining against the Milwaukee Bucks, and his buzzer-beating, game-winning jumper in double-overtime against the Phoenix Suns, after which Paul tackled Stojakovic to the court in celebration, admittedly too fired up to be concerned with his teammate's back.

The 22-year-old Paul was in high school when Stojakovic, now in his 10th season, was an emerging star with the Kings.

"I was a huge fan of him then and a bigger fan now," said Paul, who counts setting up Stojakovic for open 3s among his favorite plays. "At times, I may have more confidence in him shooting than he does. Every time he shoots it, I think it's going in."

Stojakovic, a former two-time winner of the NBA All-Star

3-point shooting contest, was invited to participate in the event again last month. He didn't win this time, but he's continued to hit 3s when the Hornets need them, making seven during a victory over the New Jersey Nets this month.

"You've got to realize, Peja could get 30 (points) on any night," says Hornets All-Star forward David West. "He defers to Chris, he defers to me, he understands his role has changed, but again, he's so dangerous in what he can do ... and that's probably the biggest thing he brings, that ability to make shots in any given situation."

Stojakovic said he's felt progressively better and is nearly off pain medication, which he said he needs only after the Hornets play games on consecutive days.

"Still, after back-to-backs, I feel a little old, a little like I've been in a car accident," Stojakovic said.

Other than that, he's happy with his play, the Hornets' playoff push, and living in New Orleans, which reminds him more of Europe than any other city in the United States.

He spends part of his free time helping the area recover from Hurricane Katrina, including hosting a charity tenpin bowling event in the past week.

When he and his wife, Alexandra, have someone to watch their two children, they visit jazz clubs or famous French Quarter restaurants like Arnaud's, known for its shrimp remoulade.

Then it's back to the arena, where he energizes fans with an array of tough fadeaways, turnaround jumpers, and of course, rainbow 3-pointers.

"It's great, having the crowd behind me," Stojakovic said. "That's my goal: Have this city recognize what we've been able to do this season. It's going to be very exciting for all of us."

Tiger in a tie for lead



ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Arnold Palmer was walking into the locker room Saturday morning at Bay Hill when he bumped into Tiger Woods, who recently surpassed him on the PGA Tour's career victory list by winning every tournament since September.

"He told me to get off my butt and play a good round," Woods said.

He responded with birdies on the three toughest holes at Bay Hill for a 4-under 66 and a five-way tie for the lead. The King must have said something to Mother Nature, too, for blustery conditions that contributed to a series of spectacular crashes late in the afternoon turned the Arnold Palmer Invitational into quite a show.

Nine players had at least a share of the lead at one point in the third round.

When the zany, windy and splash-filled afternoon finally ended, Woods was in a familiar position as he tries to extend a winning streak that spans seven months and keep alive the ridiculed notion of a perfect season.

Woods will be in the final pairing Sunday with Sean O'Hair, who won last week at Innisbrook and gave himself a chance for another victory at Bay Hill with a 63, a round he finished before the leaders even teed off.

They were at 6-under 204, joined by Bart Bryant (68), Bubba Watson (68) and Vijay Singh, whose 73 made this all possible.

Singh had a two-shot lead and showed no signs of a struggle until dropping five shots in a four-hole stretch in his front nine of 40. He hit three balls into the water, but chipped in from 30 feet for par on the last miscue to stay in the hunt.

It was the largest log jam in the 30-year history at Bay Hill, and the large-



Tiger Woods hits his tee shot on the 16th hole during the third round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament at the Bay Hill Club in Orlando, Fla., Saturday, March 15, 2008.

est on the PGA Tour since a five-way tie for the lead at the Deutsche Bank Championship in 2005.

Woods never looked to be part of it

until two spectacular shots in the toughest conditions.

He carved a 4-iron around the trees to 2 feet on the 15th hole for a birdie,

then followed that with a 7-iron that held up against the wind and dropped softly to 3 feet right of the flag.

It was one of only three birdies at the 16th, the scene of so much calamity that followed.

"I've played my way back into the tournament," said Woods, who finished two hours before the round ended and had no idea he would be in the final pairing for the fifth straight time on the PGA Tour.

Woods is 42-3 when he has at least a share of the 54-hole lead on the PGA Tour, but two of those three losses came when he shared the lead with someone else. He has never started a final round tied with more than one player.

And it's not just the other four still in the hunt.

Sixteen players were separated by a mere three shots heading into the final round. One of them was Hunter Mahan, who bogeyed two of his final five holes and still shot 65. He was one shot behind at 205.

By all rights, it's anyone's tournament. Sort of.

"It's pretty much Tiger's game," Bryant said. "When Tiger plays great, he's tough to beat. The guy has won six or seven in a row or something, and he's not playing great and he's tied for the lead. So you figure he's got to play good at some point. But not to say that somebody can't go out and play a great round and beat him. And not to say he's going to play perfect golf, either."

"It's definitely there for the taking."

Over the last two hours, Bay Hill did most of the taking.

Singh got it all started by taking double bogey on the par-5 sixth with a tee shot in the water, and another ball in the pond in front of the eighth green that led to bogey. He was the only one who truly recovered. The big Fijian birdied the next two holes, then escaped trouble on the 16th when he chipped in for par from 30 feet after hitting yet another ball in the water.

Nick Watney made two eagles, the second one at No. 12 to take a two-shot lead. He came unraveled with a tee shot out-of-bounds, another shot into the water and a putt he missed from 4 feet—all on the 16th hole, leading to a quadruple-bogey 8.

He went from the lead to 12th, and wound up in a five-way tie for seventh, only two shots behind.

"I'm closer to the lead than when I started," Watney said.

Bryant hit a 4-iron into the water on the 16th, but escaped with bogey when he holed a 12-foot putt.

"To hit that good of a drive on that tough of a hole, and walk out of there with a double bogey, that would have been a killer," Bryant said. "It was a huge putt for me."

Carl Pettersson, playing in the final group with Singh, opened with nine straight pars to join the leaders. Then the Swede pulled his tee shot on the 10th and went out-of-bounds, making double bogey.

O'Hair had no such worries, playing most of his round during a lull in the windy conditions. He played superbly, particularly on the back nine when he hit 3-wood to 7 feet for eagle on No. 12, wedge into 4 feet for birdie on No. 13, then holing a chip from 65 feet for birdie on the next hole. He signed for his 63 about 20 minutes before Singh even teed off, not knowing that he would end up in the lead.

Woods finally found the right speed on the greens, and it helped that he made birdies in some unlikely spots. Blocked by the trees on the 15th, he played a cut with his 4-iron, then ran to the left to see the outcome, although the cheers told him everything.

"Got the ball over the left bunker and let the wind bring it back over, and it worked out perfect," he said.

All it took was two great shots to get back into the mix, then a series of mistakes to put him in a familiar position.

Lohse, Cardinals finalize deal



JUPITER, Fla. (AP)—Free agent right-hander Kyle Lohse passed his

physical Friday and finalized his \$4.25 million, one-year contract with the St. Louis Cardinals.

Lohse has been throwing to college hitters while awaiting an offer to his liking and is expected to be in the Cardinals' rotation by the start of the season.

Pitching coach Dave Duncan watched closely as Lohse threw a bullpen session Friday morning.

"If it were a perfect world, we wouldn't have had to go down this path," general manager John Mozeliak said Thursday. "But it's not and we're going to need someone to pitch every fifth day."

"At some point, we may be dealing with a strength instead of a weakness."

Lohse can earn an additional \$500,000 in performance bonuses: \$100,000 each for 160, 170, 180, 190 and 200 innings. He would get a \$500,000 payment if he's traded, and the Cardinals did not include a club option in the deal, perhaps reflecting the pitcher's leverage in the transaction.

Lohse was 9-12 with a 4.62 ERA with the Cincinnati Reds and Philadelphia Phillies last year, throwing 192 2-3 innings. He has made 30 or more starts five of the last six seasons.

St. Louis is desperate for starters, uncertain whether Matt Clement and Joel Pineiro will be ready for the start of the season.

"You look at the start of the season and there's a need, and every game counts," pitching coach Dave Duncan said. "I think we picked him up under the right circumstances and I'm happy to have him."

Clement threw batting practice for the third time on Thursday but there's no timetable for his first start following shoulder surgery that sidelined him last season. Pineiro is to resume throwing on Friday after missing his last scheduled start due to tightness below his shoulder.

Chris Carpenter and Mark Mulder also are rehabbing from surgery. Mulder could return in May and Carpenter in July. Without Lohse, the Cardinals were looking at a rotation of Adam Wainwright (14-12), Braden Looper (12-12), swingmen Todd Wellemeyer (3-2) and Brad Thompson (8-6) and Anthony Reyes (2-14).

At some point, the Cardinals may have a glut of pitchers. Duncan would like that problem.

"Whoever's the best," he said, "keeps pitching."

Clement, who missed last season after undergoing shoulder surgery in

2006, threw 39 pitches in his third batting practice session and Duncan said he'd need at least one more time out before the team would consider giving him a spring start.

"I thought he turned the corner," Duncan said. "His velocity was better, the movement on all of his pitches was good and he threw more strikes than he's thrown in any of his outings. He was excited about it, I was excited about it."

Lohse has a career record of 63-74 with a 4.82 ERA, playing his first six seasons with the Minnesota Twins. He won 14 games for the Twins in 2003 and 13 in 2002.

Lohse has allowed 1302 hits in 1164 innings over his career, but Duncan has always been impressed with the pitcher's live arm. He's had success with several pitchers who came to St. Louis with mediocre career numbers, including Woody Williams and Jeff Suppan, although Kip Wells didn't work out last year. Now comes Lohse, who hasn't had a winning season since 2003.

"It's never reflected the type of ability he has," Duncan said. "Maybe the time is right for him to reach a level of success that his physical ability should allow him to. When I knew more about what it would take to get him, I felt like he was a better fit for us."



MLB BRIEFS

Angels ace John Lackey out with injury

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—The Los Angeles Angels will start the season without ace John Lackey, who is out three to four weeks because of a strained right triceps. Lackey underwent an MRI in Scottsdale, Ariz., on Friday that confirmed Dr. Lewis Yocum's diagnosis. The right-hander has already started rehabilitation and will not participate in any baseball activities until he is re-evaluated, the team said Saturday. Lackey made his first spring training appearance last Monday, pitching 1 2-3 innings against Oakland. He said he threw without pain. The Angels begin the season March 31 at Minnesota. Lackey won 19 games last year and led the AL with a 3.01 ERA. Lackey's injury, plus a shoulder injury to Kelvim Escobar that has kept him out of exhibition games, leaves the door open for top prospect Nick Adenhart to potentially earn a spot in the rotation.

Dice-K's wife has baby

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP)—Daddy Dice-K will be heading home to Japan after all—maybe to start the earliest season opener in baseball history. The Red Sox right-hander's wife gave birth Saturday to their second child, their first son. That allows Daisuke Matsuzaka to travel with his teammates to Tokyo on Wednesday and allows the team to discard its contingency plans for its four games there. "I think it's a relief for Dice-K knowing that there was uncertainty certainly up until early this morning," Boston pitching coach John Farrell said. "So the fact that she's healthy and the baby's healthy, this is one thing that he can put behind him now." Matsuzaka is expected to start one of the regular-season games in Tokyo on March 25 and 26 against Oakland. Both teams will play two exhibition games against Japanese pro teams before then.

Cabrera likely to appeal suspension

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Yankees center fielder Melky Cabrera said he most likely will appeal a three-game suspension for his role in the spring-training fight between New York and the Tampa Bay Rays. The Rays contend Cabrera punched third baseman Evan Longoria during Wednesday's pileup. "I didn't hit nobody," Cabrera said Saturday, speaking through a translator. "I don't know what it's coming from. I just come to play baseball." Yankees first baseman Shelley Duncan, also suspended three games, said he has not decided if he will appeal. Bob Watson, baseball's vice president for discipline, cited Duncan for "violent and reckless actions, which incited the bench-clearing incident." He penalized Cabrera for "violent and aggressive actions." The suspensions, unless appealed, will start at the beginning of the regular season.

PIC Gatorade tennis returns

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Pacific Islands Club tennis courts will again be bustling with activity when it hosts the 8th Annual PIC Gatorade Tennis Championships in two straight weekends starting on March 28.

The first weekend will run from March 28 to 30 with matches in the men's, women's, and junior singles taking place while the following weekend—from April 4 to 6—will feature the men's, women's, and mixed doubles events.

The men's will have matches offered in the Open, 4.0, and 3.0 division, while the women's

will have the open and 3.0 titles at stake. The junior singles, composed of boys and girls, will have the 13- and 9-and-under age groups.

The men's and women's doubles events will offer the same divisions in the singles matches—open, 4.0, and 3.0 for men's and open and 4.0 for women's—while the mixed doubles will offer the open and 4.0 crowns.

Cash prizes are also guaranteed in the winners and finalists of the Open divisions—men's and women's singles and men's, women's, and mixed doubles.

All other winners and finalists in the other categories will receive prizes donated by various sponsors of the six-day,

two-weekend tournament.

The deadline of entries for the first weekend is on March 26 at 5pm, while for the second week is on April 2 also at 5pm. All participants are guaranteed to have free waterpark passes.

The entry fee is \$15 for singles events and \$20 for the doubles. Registration forms can be picked up at the PIC information desk, PIC tennis center, and American Memorial Park tennis courts from 9am to 6pm daily.

PIC, Pacific Trading Co., Stay Well Insurance, and Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino are some of the sponsors of the tournament.

For more information, call John Waechter or Sergei Bargamotov at PIC at 235-6231 ext 5147 or email at sportsmanager@picsaipan.com or seasent@picsaipan.com.

RAYS

From Page 28

the stripe going 16-for-32 but missed crucial free throws especially when they were making their comeback.

Ernest Duenas had 25 points to pace the Mantas' balanced scoring attack with 12 coming in the payoff period when the Dolphins climbed out of a huge 20-point bubble.

Manuel Ajoste scattered 18 points, while Lerio Pagarao, who was held to two points in the first half, scored all of his 18 markers in the final 20 minutes of the game.

Jason Bahillo added 16 points, while Mike Eclevia chipped in 14 more before fouling out in the 4:07 mark of the contest. Reliable big man Bill Babauta played hurt but still managed to finish with 13 markers.

Only five players scored for the Dolphins lead by Cruz's game-

high 32 points while Rabauliman and Joe Ada finished with 24 and 23 each. Jose Castro added 13 while Anthony Dela Cruz had seven to round up MHS' scoring.

Ajoste and Eclevia joined MHS' Cruz, Kagman's Vince Teregeyo, and Kristian Aquino of MCS in the mythical team.

On Thursday, Tony Rogolifo Jr. scored 20 of his game-high 32 points to lead SSSH's JV squad to a 115-103 victory against KHS.

Novo Pepito supported Rogolifo with 23 points while Ray Santos, Tristan Ecalnea, and Melvin Cadiang contributed 16, 15, and 12 markers.

Juan Maratita led Kagman with 31 points, while Jason Palacios had 21 with Tranco Saures and Brandon Babauta contributing 15 and 12 more.

In the battle for third place, Kagman used a barrage of 13 3-pointers to score a 95-68 rout of the Mt. Carmel School Knights in the varsity division, while the MHS Dolphins

dumped the Knights, 80-64, in the junior varsity.

Junior Varsity

SSHS 115 – Rogolifo 32, Pepito 23, Santos 16, Ecalnea 15, Cadiang 12, Echon 7, Vilanueva 7, Kim 2, Palacios 2.

KHS 103 – Maratita 31, Palacios 21, Saures 15, Babauta 12, Torres 8, Salas 5, Agulto 4, Muna 4, Ayuyu 3.

Scoring by quarters: 25-21, 50-51, 80-81, 115-103.

Referees: Gilbert Espinosa, Arnold Mesa, and Jesse Pabula.

Varsity

SSHS 111 – Duenas 25, Ajoste 18, Pagarao 18, Bahillo 16, Eclevia 14, Babauta 13, Baltau 3, Echon 2, Flores 2.

MHS 99 – Cruz 32, Rabauliman 24, Ada 23, Castro 13, Dela Cruz 7.

Scoring by quarters: 28-19, 58-40, 84-65, 111-99.

Referees: Gilbert Espinosa, Arnold Mesa, and Jesse Pabula.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
xy-Boston	52	13	.800	—
Toronto	34	31	.523	18
Philadelphia	33	34	.493	20
New Jersey	28	38	.424	24 1/2
New York	19	46	.292	33
Southeast Division				
x-Orlando	44	24	.647	—
Washington	33	32	.508	9 1/2
Atlanta	27	38	.415	15 1/2
Charlotte	24	41	.369	18 1/2
Miami	11	53	.172	31
Central Division				
x-Detroit	47	18	.723	—
Cleveland	37	29	.561	10 1/2
Chicago	26	39	.400	21
Indiana	25	41	.379	22 1/2
Milwaukee	23	43	.348	24 1/2
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
Houston	45	20	.692	—
New Orleans	44	20	.688	1/2
San Antonio	44	22	.667	1 1/2
Dallas	43	23	.652	2 1/2
Memphis	15	50	.231	30
Northwest Division				
Utah	44	24	.647	—
Denver	39	26	.600	3 1/2
Portland	35	32	.522	8 1/2
Seattle	16	50	.242	27
Minnesota	15	50	.231	27 1/2
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	45	20	.692	—
Phoenix	44	22	.667	1 1/2
Golden State	41	24	.631	4
Sacramento	29	36	.446	16
L.A. Clippers	21	44	.323	24
x-clinched playoff spot				
y-clinched division				
Yesterday's Games				
Orlando 122, Indiana 111				
Philadelphia 103, San Antonio 96				
Washington 119, L.A. Clippers 109, OT				
New Jersey 117, Utah 115				
Boston 99, Milwaukee 77				
Phoenix 127, Sacramento 99				
Portland 107, Minnesota 96				
Golden State 110, Memphis 107				
ARNOLD PALMER INVITATIONAL SCORES				
ORLANDO, Florida (AP)—Scores from Saturday's third round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational, a \$5.8 million (€3.7 million) U.S. PGA Tour event at 7,162-yard, par-70 Bay Hill Club and Lodge:				
Third Round				
Sean O'Hair	72-69-63	204		
Tiger Woods	70-68-66	204		

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PACQUIAO

From Page 28

I adjusted my game plan and I thought from then on, I dictated the whole fight. ... The people are the best judge, and the people are booing him. I won."

Pacquiao won a major world title in his fourth weight division, and he intends to take on a fifth when he moves up to 135 pounds for his next fight against David Diaz, the WBC light-weight champion who won on Saturday's undercard.

TORGESON

From Page 28

tions of the race for a total record of 3:30:38.

She was 5:04 behind Bucher's 3:25:34 record and was 1:22 ahead of the 7th XTERRA Saipan runner up Miek Carey (3:32:00).

Champions of Kaike and Tagaman triathlons compete in each other's events every year.

The CNMI, meanwhile, had nine triathletes placing in various age groups in the men's division while Japan swept the women's class.

Sixteen-year-olds Matthew Mancao and Federico Fernandez, who are both competing in their

"I don't think so," Pacquiao said of a third fight with Marquez. "This business is over."

Marquez, whose brother Rafael just finished a three-fight epic with Israel Vazquez, landed 172 punches, or 34 percent of his total compared to Pacquiao's 25 percent. Pacquiao threw more jabs, and Marquez landed more power shots.

Pacquiao entered the ring to thousands of cheering fans and a Filipino rapper who incited the crowd with a live performance. Marquez had a white-suited mariachi band waiting for him in the

ring, and his fans drowned out the sizable Filipino contingent.

After a cautious start, both fighters showed glimpses of their fearsome potential in the second round. Pacquiao won several tough exchanges, but Marquez wobbled Pacquiao with a three-punch combination in the final seconds.

The third round was nonstop action, with both fighters trading quality punches before Pacquiao put Marquez on the canvas with a left hook. Marquez was leaning against the ropes by the end, but wouldn't go down.

first Tagaman, had a 1-2 finish in the 24-and-under division. Mancao had a 4:25:50 finish, while Fernandez logged in 4:51:17.

Inspirational athlete Syoki Sakano, who competed in his third Tagaman, placed third with a combined time of 5:52:44.

Shimpei Ushio topped the 25-29 division (3:24:51), while compatriot Kenji Tabata placed second (3:44:06). Another Japanese, Fuminori Akano, bested four participants in the 30-34 age group he had a time of 3:43:47.

Guam's Michael McDonald placed second to Akano (3:44:39) while Takayasu Kawakami (4:08:22), Saipan's Brad Ruzsala (4:48:14), and Katunori Arai (5:02:04) rounded up the finishers.

Rob Carter (3:41:57) led a

1-2-3 Saipan finish in the 35-39 division. Lewie Tenorio (3:50:58) and Nate "The Snakeman" Hawley (3:59:21) placed second and third. Shigeki Otsuki (5:31:48) and Yousuke Ishiguro (5:46:12) were the other finishers.

Tinian's Ken Halliday placed third (3:32:04) in the 40-44 behind Korea's Jae-Hwa Kim (3:21:54) and Christopher Flanagan (3:27:35). Sergey Makarenko (3:36:18), Vinny Wood (3:36:18), and Allen Collinson (3:56:46) rounded up the finishers.

In the 45-49 division Yasuhisa Hirata (3:13:59), Dirk Sharer (3:34:13), Katuo Kawamura (3:53:32), Kiyoharu Suzuki (4:35:53), Noritake Ishida (4:43:58), and Un-Young Lee (5:14:55) were the finishers,

Marquez cut Pacquiao with a punch in the fourth round, but Pacquiao staggered him again in the seventh, and a collision of heads opened a nasty cut near Marquez's right eye. Marquez then split Pacquiao's right cheek early in the eighth, but Pacquiao kept charging forward to take punishment with his obscured vision.

They traded quality punches until the final minute, when Marquez landed a handful of combinations to do the final damage. Both fighters' cornermen raised them in victory.

while Fumio Maekawa (4:23:08), Mike Johnson (4:31:34), Hiroshi Kishibe (4:43:25), Shigenobu Matsuda (5:47:46), and Kensyo Sakano (5:52:44) duplicated the feat in the 50-54 age group.

Osamu Hashimoto (4:53:50) was the lone competitor in the 55-59 division while Hans Dieben, who celebrated his 70th birthday on March 12, (4:42:14); Katuzo Ishida (5:29:47); and Naohiro Otani (5:33:57) were the top three in the 60-and-over division.

The women's finishers are Ayumi Ishikawa (4:12:42) and Haldre Rogers (4:32:27) 25-29; Michiko Kawakami (4:34:54) 30-34; Ayumi Hasebe (4:47:42) and Eberle Funches (4:49:56) 40-44; and Kaori Hiramatsu (4:41:57) 45-49.



Participants in the Tagakids Triathlon pose for photographers in Saturday night's banquet at the Pacific Islands Club beach.

JON PEREZ

Over-13.

The 5-6 and 7-8 age divisions began the race in the Tagakids at 8am where they will have a 100m swim around Micro

Beach.

The bike leg is a four-kilometer course around AMP while the run portion will be a one-kilometer run also at AMP.

The 9-12 age group (9-10 and 11-12) did two laps of the swim, bike, and run portions of the race or a 200m swim, 8K bike, and 2K run.

19th Tagaman Triathlon

Photos and Text by JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Kensyo Sakano, left, assists his son Syoki Sakano as they head out outside the run transition area at American Memorial Park.



Eli Torgeson smiles for photographers in Marpi.



Saipan's Dirk Sharer keeps a steady pace in the 15-kilometer run leg.



Andrew Noble heads to Suicide Cliff in Marpi as he tries to catch Masayuki Matsumaru of Japan in the bike portion of Saturday morning's 19th Tagaman Triathlon.



Team 220, from left, biker Cesar Fortaleza, swimmer Manny Sitchon, and runner Florence Antonio pose for a photo after finishing the race.



Renata Bucher, left, holds a slim lead over closest pursuer Mieko Carey, center, as they negotiate the Marpi course heading into Bird Island. Also in photo is Shimpei Ushio of Japan.



PDI general manager Yoichi Matsumura, fourth left, joins Team PDI and Team R&C for a group photo at the finish line.



Saipan's Lewie Tenorio rides his bike at the Last Command Post in Marpi.



Japan's Naohiro Otani raises his arms after crossing the finish line.



Hans Diebens walks off the final steps to cross the finish line.



Tiger in a tie for lead

Arnold Palmer was walking into the locker room Saturday morning at Bay Hill when he bumped into Tiger Woods, who recently surpassed him on the PGA Tour's career victory list by winning every tournament since September.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

76ers' two Andres lead team to win

Andre Miller scored a season-high 32 points and Andre Iguodala had 25 to lead the Philadelphia 76ers to their third straight sparkling victory, 103-96 over the San Antonio Spurs on Saturday night.

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28 MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Rays sweep MISO caging

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays swept the championships in the 2008 MISO Basketball League after beating separate opponents last week to claim the varsity and junior varsity crowns.

Saipan Southern nearly blew a 26-point third quarter lead to reclaim the varsity title and avenged its finals loss last year to the Marianas High School Dolphins, 115-103, in Friday's championship match at the MHS Gymnasium.

Last Thursday, the SSSH junior varsity squad outscored the Kagman High School Ayuyus in the fourth quarter to score a 115-

103 decision in their own finals showdown.

On Friday night, the Rays' relentless fastbreak scoring attack to build a comfortable 81-55 lead with only 83 seconds left in the third period.

But the defending champion Dolphins won't go down without a fight using, four straight offensive scoring exchanges against the Rays to trim the lead and once again threaten to pull off the same result when they defeated the highly favored Saipan Southern crew in last year's finals match.

The MHS five, led by Jericho Cruz's 15 points and Marvin Rabauliman's 13 markers used a combined 37-12 run to threaten at 92-93 with still four



Saipan Southern High School coach Jesse Tudela, second left, and assistant Omar Ajoste, right, join members of the Manta Rays for a group photo after reclaiming the MISO title last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

JON PEREZ

minutes and seven seconds left in the final period.

The Rays, however, would not be denied the win and showed end-game poise in the final three minutes of the game to secure the title. A Lerio Pagarao jumper tipped off a closing 18-7 exchange to secure SSSH's third title since the inaugural MISO season started in 2002.

It was a tight match in the first five minutes of the opening quarter as both teams battled to a 16-16 tie midway in the game. Saipan Southern coach Jesse Tudela sued for time to change his game plan.

When play resumed the Rays dropped a 12-3 run to take control of the match and never looked back after that hitting timely baskets to keep the Dolphins at bay.

MHS shot 50 percent at

See RAYS on Page 26

Pacquiao beats Marquez by split decision

By GREG BEACHAM
AP SPORTS WRITER



LAS VEGAS

(AP)—Manny Pacquiao's rematch victory over Juan Manuel Marquez was worth every minute of the four-year wait.

Pacquiao won a narrow split decision to claim Marquez's

also was cut, but neither backed down from one scintillating exchange after another.

Their first matchup ended in a draw in May 2004. Marquez was knocked down three times in the opening round of that acclaimed bout, but the Mexican champion improbably rallied to win most of the later rounds in a possible career-saving performance.

An immediate rematch was scuttled by financial argu-

called it 115-112 for Marquez, while Tom Miller gave a 114-113 edge to Pacquiao despite giving the last two rounds to Marquez. The Associated Press narrowly favored Marquez, 114-113, on the strength of his 12th-round performance.

With outstanding action in nearly every round producing bloody injuries and heart-stopping moments, the fight showed why both boxers are at the peak of their profession. One defining moment came when Pacquiao nearly had the fight won in the third round, but Marquez kept his feet.

"I thought at that point I was in control of the fight," Pacquiao said. "But when he cut my eye in the fourth round, he made it more difficult for me, and I couldn't take control of the fight. ... I wasn't sure (heading into the 12th round), but I always treat the final round as the most important. I don't take any chances."

From the opening bell, the action was fast and frenetic at the Mandalay Bay Events Center. Marquez staggered Pacquiao in the second round, but Pacquiao floored Marquez in the third with a left hook. Pacquiao then wobbled Marquez again late in what's sure to be one of the year's best rounds, but couldn't finish off Marquez.

"I don't like the decision," Marquez said. "I still feel I am the champion. It was a bad decision. That first knock-down, he got me cold, but then

See PACQUIAO on Page 26



Manny Pacquiao hits Juan Manuel Marquez in the fourth round of their WBC super featherweight title fight at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas Saturday, March 15, 2008.

WBC 130-pound title Saturday night in a sensational fight that left two of the world's best boxers bloody and triumphant.

Though Marquez landed more punches at a higher percentage, Pacquiao (46-3-2) knocked down Marquez (48-4-1) in the third round and persevered through a nasty cut. Marquez

ments, and Pacquiao went on to cement his spots atop the sport and in every Filipino's heart, while Marquez made a long climb back to a match he eagerly accepted this time.

The second fight was just as tight—and every bit as exciting.

Judge Duane Ford favored Pacquiao 115-112 and Jerry Roth

Torgeson, Shimizu earn Kaike slots

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



For being the top Saipan finishers in the 19th Tagaman Triathlon on Saturday

Eli Torgeson and Maimi Shimizu earned automatic slots in the 28th Annual Kaike Triathlon Championships on July 15.

Torgeson, who also qualified in the XTERRA World Championships on Oct. 26, 2008, in Maui, and Shimizu gave the pros a hard time as they matched their intensity and energy in the grueling 2-kilometer swim, 60-km bike, and 15-km run course of Saipan's longest-running triathlon event.

Torgeson punched the sixth overall best time of three hours, 15 minutes, and 49 seconds to place fifth in the open division behind pros Andrew Noble of Australia (2:54:25), Japan's Masayuki Matsumaru (2:56:57), Koreans Ka-On Cho (3:06:57) and Seok-Joo Han (3:13:43).

Torgeson was two minutes and six seconds behind Cho and enjoyed an almost 20-minute lead over another Korean, Yu-Hun Park's 3:34:17 time.

Shimizu, meanwhile, was one of three female competitors that put up a challenge to four-time XTERRA Saipan champion Renata Bucher of Switzerland.

Shimizu, who was the 16th swimmer out of the water with a time of 34:57, continuously challenged Bucher in the bike (1:49:50) and run (1:05:51) por-

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Shimizu



Torgeson

Klassen brood lead Tagakids winners

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REPORTER

Siblings Andrew, Sarah, and Matthew Klassen led the list of winners in Saturday's Tagakids, which took place simultaneously with the 19th Tagaman Triathlon at Micro Beach inside the American Memorial Park.

The Klassen siblings won their respective age groups with Andrew posting the best overall time in the swim-bike-run event. Andrew topped the 7-8 division with a total time of 16 minutes and 57 seconds.

Age group winners received trophies while all participants were given medals, T-shirts, and a Saipanda stuffed toy.

Andrew posted times of 3:24, 9:55, and 3:38 in the 100m swim, 4K bike, and 1K run besting Kento Akimaru (20:19),

Ryosei Toda (20:33), Kosei Toda (21:01), and Daisuke Fital (22:24) in their division.

Andrew's older brother Matthew Klassen topped the 11-12 division with a combined time of 31:27 or 5:47 in the 200m swim, 17:02 in the 8K bike, and 8:38 in the 2K run.

Andrew Johnson, whose parents and older sisters joined the 19th Tagaman individually and as a women's team, placed second, while best friend Kasei Today came in third. They have similar 36:27 times.

Andrew and Matthew Klassen's sister Sarah was the top girls finisher with a time of 20:22 to top the 7-8 division, while Gabbie Race (7:52, 21:32, and 9:12) topped the 9-10 age group punching in a record of 38:36.

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